



Supreme Court
STATE OF LOUISIANA
New Orleans

CHIEF JUSTICE
PASCAL F. CALOGERO, JR. First District
JUSTICES
WALTER F. MARCUS, JR. First District
JEFFREY P. VICTORY Second District
JEANNETTE THERIOT KNOLL Third District
CHET D. TRAYLOR Fourth District
CATHERINE D. KIMBALL Fifth District
HARRY T. LEMMON Sixth District
BERNETTE J. JOHNSON Orleans

April 7, 1999

301 LOYOLA AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112

TELEPHONE (504) 568-5707
HOME PAGE <http://www.lasc.org>

Dean Edward F. Sherman
Tulane Law School
6329 Freret Street
New Orleans, LA 70118-5670

RE: Law Student Practice Rule

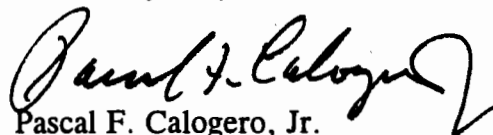
Dear Dean Sherman:

Since its inception in 1971, the Law Student Practice Rule has contained an indigency component. Insofar as the Court is aware, no clinic opponent or in-court adversary has ever formally or informally demanded or requested financial documents and information in the possession of law clinics which were generated or received in support of a client's indigency and/or inability to pay for legal services. It has now come to the attention of the Court, through newspaper publicity and otherwise, that pre-trial challenges to the financial eligibility of clinic clients are being anticipated by some. The purpose of this correspondence is to inform you that the Court considers the information and documents which are given to law clinics, or generated by law clinics, concerning the financial eligibility of clinic clients, to be confidential and not subject to public scrutiny or disclosure.

The Court is confident the law clinics will satisfy themselves, through the procurement of sufficient and appropriate information, that potential clients meet the financial eligibility requirements for student representation contained in Sections 4 and 5 of the Law Student Practice Rule. In the event the financial eligibility of a clinic client is questioned, either formally or informally, by anyone outside of the clinic, the person or entity who is questioning a client's eligibility should be informed of this correspondence and should be asked to contact this Court. The Court will then review the complaint and make such inquiry of the law clinic as it deems necessary and advisable, and thereafter take whatever action it deems appropriate. Such action may include a confidential review by Supreme Court staff of the documents and information which were produced or received by the clinic to ascertain the financial eligibility of a clinic client.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Court's Judicial Administrator.

Yours very truly,


Pascal F. Calogero, Jr.

PFCJr/ebg

RULEXX\LETTERS\SHERMAN.008