



June 15, 2009

The Honorable Daniel E. Shearouse
Clerk of Court
The Supreme Court of South Carolina
Post Office Box 11330
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of the Proposed Amendments to Rule 412 submitted by the South Carolina Bar Foundation.

The South Carolina Access to Justice Commission recognizes the need for increased funding of access to justice initiatives. The Commission also particularly acknowledges the extraordinary contributions by the SC Bar Foundation to the delivery of legal services to low-income South Carolinians from funds generated by the IOLTA program.

The rule change proposed by the Foundation is sorely needed. At a time when IOLTA funding has been eroded substantially by the state and national recession, the adoption of the comparability provision would increase the potential for additional funding for various access to justice programs, particularly for legal services programs that serve our state's low-income families.

The Commission congratulates the Bar Foundation on its foresightedness and would encourage the Supreme Court to adopt promptly the Proposed Amendment to Rule 412.

Very truly yours,

/S

Stuart M. Andrews
Vice Chair, South Carolina Access to Justice Commission

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