



BROWARD COUNTY WOMEN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION
106 Southeast 9th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
BrowardWomenLawyers.com

BCWLA

Broward County Women
Lawyers' Association

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November 15, 2018

Re: Amendments to the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration
SC18-1554

To Whom it May Concern:

The Board of Directors of the Broward County Women Lawyers Association would like to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed Amendment to the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, entitled the "Parental Leave Act." We are urging the passage of a rule supporting parental leave.

Most of our members are women, although we have many men who support our cause and are actively involved in our chapter not only as members but as members of our board. Our membership is comprised of lawyers from all branches of the legal profession—from big firms to solo practitioners, from government lawyers to private practice. Many of our members choose to have children and have been hampered in the past by the lack of rules relating to parental and maternity/paternity leave. Any rule that would put an end to hardship caused by leave necessary for successful birth, recovery, parental bonding, and parenting by both mothers and fathers in the legal profession could only benefit us all.

We have many stories among us that demonstrate the need for firm rules to be in place to mandate that all counsel, regardless of gender, who strive for excellence in the law but also excellence in parenting be protected. Failure to pass these rules would harm many who are trying to balance parenthood with lawyering, but skewed mostly against those lawyers who happen to be female.

We know this Court has been striving valiantly to enforce professionalism between counsel. Unfortunately, despite this Court's best efforts to discipline those attorneys who don't always perform their duties fairly and professionally, we will always have those who will attempt to use opposing counsel's responsibilities as parents against them to unfair advantage. The Parental Leave Rules will go a long way in combatting these types of unprofessional efforts.

RECEIVED, 11/15/2018 02:53:25 PM, Clerk, Supreme Court

Thank you for the opportunity to address you on this matter.

Very truly yours,

/s/ABBE S. RIFKIN, Esq.
Membership Chair
On Behalf of the Board of Directors
Broward County Women Lawyers Association

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was emailed to Eduardo I. Sanchez, eduardo.i.sanchez@usdoj.gov, and to Krys Godwin, kgodwin@floridabar.org this 15th day of November, 2018.

By: _____

/s/ ABBE S. RIFKIN, Esq.