

Florida Supreme Court
Office of the Clerk
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

September 23, 2021

In Re: Amendment to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.280, No. SC21-929

To the Honorable Justices of the Florida Supreme Court:

We, the undersigned, are the leading national organizations representing lawyers who primarily represent civil defendants. Over 22,000 attorneys are members of the DRI – Lawyers Representing Business and its Center for Law and Public Policy, International Association of Defense Counsel, Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel, Association of Defense Trial Attorneys, and Product Liability Advisory Council, Inc. We are also leading business, civil justice, and public policy organizations. Our members include countless Florida employers.

We support the Court's decision to codify the "apex doctrine" and extend its protections to the private sector. As the Court recognized, prior judicial decisions in Florida clearly established the apex doctrine for high-ranking government officials. We agree with the Court that there is "no good reason to withhold from private officers the same protection that Florida courts have long afforded government officers."

Respectfully submitted,

Associated Industries of Florida
Florida Insurance Council
International Association of
Defense Counsel
American Property Casualty
Insurance Association
Washington Legal Foundation
American Trucking Associations
National Federation of
Independent Business
Product Liability Advisory
Council, Inc.

DRI – Lawyers Representing
Business and its Center for
Law and Public Policy
Association of Defense
Trial Attorneys
National Association of Mutual
Insurance Companies
American Tort Reform Association
Alliance for Automotive Innovation
Pharmaceutical Research and
Manufacturers of America
Coalition for Litigation Justice, Inc.

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Federation of Defense &
Corporate Counsel

/s/ Frank Cruz-Alvarez

Frank Cruz-Alvarez

Florida Bar No. 0499803

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.

Citigroup Center, Suite 3200

201 S. Biscayne Boulevard

Miami, FL 33131

Telephone: (305) 358-5171

[falvarez@shb.com](mailto:fcruz@shb.com)