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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FLORIDA BAR UNLICENSED PRACTICE OF LAW COMMITTEE ISSUES  
DECISION IN NON-LAWYER SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCATE CASE**

MIAMI, March 7, 2005 – The Florida Bar Unlicensed Practice of Law Committee 11A (“UPL Committee”) issued its decision in the Unlicensed Practice of Law (“UPL”) Investigation of Lilliam Rangel-Diaz of the Center for Education Advocacy, Inc., closing its file in the matter on January 12, 2005 and dismissing all UPL charges against Mrs. Rangel-Diaz.

Four Miami-Dade County School Board Attorneys had alleged in a complaint filed on March 8, 2004 that Mrs. Rangel-Diaz’s attempts to act as a qualified representative in Exceptional Student Education (“ESE”) due process hearings constituted UPL.

The UPL Committee found that Rule 6A-6.03311, Florida Administrative Code allows non-lawyer advocates to act as qualified representatives and to appear on behalf of clients in ESE hearings. Non-lawyer special education advocates in Florida need to study the provisions found in Rule 28-106.106 and Rule 28-106.107, Florida Administrative Code which contain rules of qualification and standards of conduct.

This decision is of great value to students with disabilities and their families in Florida and to those who advocate for their rights in the highly complex system of special education due process that Florida has in place at this time. The federal government should further clarify how non-lawyer special education advocates should proceed to avoid UPL issues.

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