## DEAR USMNEWS.NET

Dear usmnews.net,

I haven't been to usmnews.net for a while, but a friend said I had to take a look at your Gore story. What's up with that [investigation by the Florida Bar Association for alleged practicing law without a license]? It seems like a minor violation.

Name withheld

Dear Name withheld,

The editor is not a lawyer and does not hold himself out as having any legal training. However, Section 454.23 of the Florida Statutes states "Any person not licensed or otherwise authorized to practice law in this state [Florida] who practices law in this state or holds himself or herself out to the public as qualified to practice law in this state, or who willfully pretends to be, or willfully takes or uses any name, title, addition or description implying that he or she is qualified, or recognized by law as qualified to practice law in this state commits a felony of the third degree ...". A third degree felony is punishable by a maximum of five years in prison.

You can draw your own conclusions as to <u>how potentially serious</u> the offense maybe.

Editor