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5 **IN THE SUPREME COURT**
STATE OF ARIZONA

6 In the Matter of:

Supreme Court No. R-22-0009

7 **PETITION TO ADOPT RULE 124**
8 **OF THE RULES OF THE**
9 **SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA**

STATE BAR OF ARIZONA
COMMENT IN SUPPORT OF
AMENDED PETITION

10 **I. INTRODUCTION**

11 Pursuant to Rule 28(a) of the Arizona Rules of Supreme Court, the State Bar
12 of Arizona (“State Bar”) hereby submits this comment in support of the Amended
13 Petition filed in this matter.

14 The State Bar appreciates the efforts of the Administrative Office of the
15 Courts to form and lead a workgroup of practitioners and stakeholders to address the
16 issues raised in the State Bar’s Comment and in other Comments. The Amended
17 Petition adopts the workgroup’s recommendations, and resolves the concerns raised
18 by the State Bar’s May 2, 2022 Comment filed with respect to the original Petition.

19 Accordingly, the State Bar supports the Amended Petition.
20

1 **II. THE PETITION AND THE AMENDED PETITION**

2 The original Petition was filed to implement a recent amendment to A.R.S.
3 § 12-109 regarding electronic signatures. The Petition requested a new rule,
4 proposed Supreme Court Rule 124, be adopted to establish rules for electronic
5 signatures in court filings.

6 Although the State Bar supports the Petitioner’s goal of facilitating electronic
7 filing and electronic signatures, the State Bar concluded that the Petition’s solution
8 to this issue was problematic, and filed a Comment in opposition to the Petition.

9 In its Comment, the State Bar requested that the Court form a workgroup to
10 address the issues raised in its Comment, specifically the differing definitions of
11 “electronic signature” as well as the best location or locations within the various
12 Rules for any proposed changes.

13 The Petitioner requested and received an extension to April 1, 2023 to submit
14 an amended petition. After the extension was granted, Petitioner formed a
15 workgroup that met over some number of months to analyze the issues raised in
16 original Petition and in the Comments. The workgroup ultimately recommended
17 changes to a number of rule sets with respect to electronic signatures.

18 On March 23, 2023, Petitioner filed an Amended Petition that adopted the
19 workgroup’s recommendations.

1 **III. CONCLUSION.**

2 The Amended Petition contains a thorough and well-reasoned explanation of
3 the workgroup’s recommended rule changes. The State Bar agrees with that
4 explanation, and for those reasons, respectfully requests this Court adopt the
5 amendments as the Amended Petition seeks.

6 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 1st day of June, 2023.

7 */s/ Lisa M. Panahi*

8 Lisa M. Panahi
9 General Counsel

10 Electronic copy filed with the
11 Clerk of the Supreme Court of Arizona
12 this 1st day of June, 2023.

13 by: PSequin