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To the Honorable Justices of the Arizona Supreme Court,

We, the undersigned past presidents of the State Bar of Arizona, write to express our strong opposition to the petition currently before this honorable Court which seeks to defund the Bar's non-regulatory activities.

As individuals who have dedicated our careers to improving the state's legal profession and promoting access to justice, we believe that such limitations would undermine the essential role that our Bar plays in advancing the legal community and serving the public interest.

Beyond its regulatory duties, the Bar engages in critical activities that directly benefit the public and the profession, including: improving access to justice, enhancing diversity, increasing attorney competence, providing mentorship and networking opportunities for members, and educating the public about the rule of law.

These crucial efforts would be severely impacted if the Bar's mission were limited to just regulatory activities. The Bar's current structure is an indispensable part of Arizona's thriving and ethical legal profession. Also, as studies have repeatedly shown in the past, the Bar also has fulfilled its mission and activities at a cost far less than could be accomplished if it were a state operated agency.

We respectfully urge the Court to reject this petition and maintain the Bar's ability to continue supporting our legal community and serving the public good.

Sincerely,

Don Bivens

past president, State Bar of Arizona and on behalf of the following past presidents

Frederick M. "Fritz" Aspey
Roxana C. Bacon
Alan P. Bayham Jr.
Hon. Bryan B. Chambers
Amelia Craig Cramer
Whitney Cunningham
Stanley G. Feldman
Denis M. Fitzgibbons
Hon. Brian Y. Furuya
Helen Perry Grimwood

Raymond A. Hanna
Lisa S. Loo
Michael R. Murphy
Edward F. Novak
Michael L. Piccarreta
Richard T. Platt
Jennifer R. Rebholz
Dee-Dee Samet
Jessica S. Sanchez
Robert E. Schmitt

Kenneth J. Sherk
Tom Slutes
Jimmie D. Smith
Geoffrey M. Trachtenberg
Pamela A. Treadwell-Rubin
Alex Vakula
Jeffrey Willis
Charles W. Wirken
Robert B. Van Wyck
Thomas A. Zlaket