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**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of:) Supreme Court No. R-24-0030
)
PETITION TO AMEND SUPREME) **COMMENTS OF THE ARIZONA**
COURT RULES 32(b) AND (c)) **COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO**
) **JUSTICE OPPOSING THE**
) **PETITION**
_____)

The Arizona Commission on Access to Justice is charged with considering and recommending innovative ways to promote access to justice for individuals who cannot afford legal counsel or who choose to represent themselves in civil cases. Established in 2014, the Commission evaluates best practices, identifies possible changes in court rules or practices to reduce barriers to access, identifies and encourages the adoption of best practices among legal service providers, and considers potential long-term funding options.

Following a presentation at the April 11, 2024, Commission meeting, a motion was made and seconded that the Commission oppose Rule Change Petition No. R-24-0030. After discussion by members of the Commission, that motion passed

by majority vote. This Comment is a result of that formal Commission action and is intended to reflect the Commission's opposition to the changes requested in the Petition.

This Petition seeks to eliminate membership dues for non-regulatory functions of the State Bar of Arizona. As part of its mission, the State Bar is tasked with addressing access to justice in our state. To fulfill that mission, it partners with the Arizona Bar Foundation to provide funding for access to justice initiatives that assist non-profit legal aid organizations which service low-income citizens in need of legal representation. Additionally, it encourages its members to participate in pro bono opportunities to provide no cost legal assistance through phone banks, community events and online. The adoption of this rule petition would have a negative effect on the efforts of the Commission and those of the legal profession.

For these reasons, the Commission opposes the adoption of the proposed amendments requested in Petition No. R-24-0030.

DATED this 29th day of April 2024.

_____/s/_____
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