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**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of:) Supreme Court No. R-24-0040
)
PETITION TO AMEND RULE) **COMMENTS OF THE ARIZONA**
31.3(e)(4), ARIZONA RULES OF) **COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO**
SUPREME COURT) **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-24-0040. 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 of the changes requested in the Petition.

This Petition will confuse those seeking legal assistance and does not make clear how a “legal practitioner” is different than a lawyer. The Petition cites the similarity with the title “nurse practitioner,” but that term makes clear the person is not a doctor. Here legal practitioner is a term that has been used to describe a lawyer, not a paraprofessional. Although the Commission supports opportunities to expand access to our legal system, it also seeks to ensure that those who need legal representation are not confused as to the services that a licensed person is authorized to provide. This title change would create confusion and does not assist clients in determining the qualifications of their representation.

For these reasons, the Commission opposes the adoption of the proposed amendments requested in Petition No. R-24-0040.

DATED this 29th day of April 2024.

_____/s/_____
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