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**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of:	) Supreme Court No. R-24-0005
	)
PETITION TO AMEND RULES 1.5,	) COMMENTS OF THE ARIZONA
17.1, 17.2 AND 17.3 OF THE RULES	) COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO
OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE	) JUSTICE IN SUPPORT OF 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 support Rule Change Petition No. R-24-0005. After discussion by members of the Commission, that motion passed

unanimously. This Comment is a result of that formal Commission action and is intended to reflect the Commission's support of the changes requested in the Petition.

Though not a civil issue, the rule changes sought in this Petition would improve access to justice by permitting participants to appear virtually in court proceedings, thereby eliminating barriers associated with in-person attendance. Experience during the pandemic demonstrated that the ability to participate remotely can have a significant beneficial impact on the individuals who access courts and can result in higher participation rates. It is recommended that rules in the civil realm be reviewed for areas in which similar language to that proposed here would be beneficial in the future.

For these reasons, the Commission supports the adoption of the proposed amendments requested in Petition No. R-24-0005.

DATED this 29th day of April 2024.

_____/s/_____
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