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**IN THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of:	)	Supreme Court No. R-24-0014
	)	
PETITION TO AMEND RULES 304	)	<b>COMMENTS OF THE ARIZONA</b>
AND 306 OF THE ARIZONA RULES	)	<b>COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO</b>
OF PROCEDURE FOR THE	)	<b>JUSTICE IN SUPPORT OF THE</b>
JUVENILE COURT	)	<b>PETITION</b>
_____	)	

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-24-0014. 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.

This Petition allows the court the discretionary power to appoint separate legal counsel for children while a matter is on appeal. This supports access to justice because it allows for the possibility that children's voices may be heard on matters that may affect their best interests during this critical (and often final) stage of the proceeding. The interests of parents and children are not necessarily aligned in cases of abuse, neglect, substance abuse, and similar circumstances. The proposed amendment brings the rights of children, and the process for which those rights are asserted, in line with the other interested parties in this type of litigation.

For these reasons, the Commission supports the adoption of the proposed amendments requested in Petition No. R-24-0014.

DATED this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
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