

Samuel A. Thumma  
Chair, Arizona Commission on Access to Justice  
Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals  
Division One  
State Courts Building  
1501 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-3329  
Telephone: (602) 452-6700

**IN THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of: ) Supreme Court No. R-24-0018  
)  
PETITION TO AMEND ARIZONA ) **COMMENTS OF THE ARIZONA**  
RULE OF EVIDENCE 412 ) **COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO**  
) **JUSTICE SUPPORTING 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-24-0018. 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.

The Petition would amend Ariz. R. Evid. 412 to conform to Fed. R. Evid. 412 in non-criminal cases. This amendment improves access to civil justice because it extends the protections already found in Arizona's criminal rape shield statute and the rape shield rule in the Federal Rules of Evidence to the Arizona Rules of Evidence. This makes the civil justice process safer and more accessible to rape victims.

For these reasons, the Commission supports the adoption of the proposed amendments requested in Petition No. R-24-0018.

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

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