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**IN THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of: ) Supreme Court No. R-24-0029  
)  
PETITION TO AMEND RULE ) **COMMENTS OF THE ARIZONA**  
31.3(e) OF THE ARIZONA RULES ) **COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO**  
OF THE SUPREME COURT ) **JUSTICE IN SUPPORT OF THE**  
) **PETITION**  
)

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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-24-0029. 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 support of the changes requested in the Petition.

This Petition authorizes Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) employees to represent alleged victims of discrimination during the Division's fair housing investigations, mediations and conciliations. Allowing for more educated representation to assist persons seeking recourse for alleged discrimination provides access to justice for those that may not be able to afford it and those who do not understand the legal processes involved. This low-cost alternative ensures that complaints do not get lost or waived due to a lack of understanding.

For these reasons, the Commission supports the adoption of the proposed amendments requested in Petition No. R-24-0029.

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

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