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**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of:) Supreme Court No. R-24-0023
)
PETITION TO AMEND APPENDIX A,) **COMMENT IN SUPPORT OF**
RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR) **PETITION TO AMEND APPENDIX A,**
EVICITION ACTIONS) **RULES OF PROCEDURE**
) **FOR EVICITION ACTIONS**
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Pursuant to Arizona Rule of the Supreme Court 28, the Arizona Attorney General’s Office (“AGO”) respectfully submits the following comment supporting Petition No. R-24-0023 (the “Petition”).

I. Introduction

The AGO supports the Petition filed by Community Legal Services, DNA People’s Legal Services, Southern Arizona Legal Aid, and the William E. Morris

Institute for Justice (collectively, “Petitioners”) to amend Appendix A to the Rules of Procedure for Eviction Actions (the “Appendix”). Petitioners seek to amend the Appendix to modify the Residential Eviction Information Sheet (“REIS”) to add additional relevant information and make it easier to read and understand. The REIS is a valuable resource for assisting unrepresented individuals through the eviction process and Petitioners’ edits serve to improve this beneficial and informational document.

II. Argument

The amendments to the Appendix would serve to promote access to justice for Arizonans by improving, and providing in a more digestible format, information for individuals who have been served an eviction summons and complaint. Individuals facing eviction from their home are confronted with many obstacles, one of which includes navigating the eviction proceeding process, commonly without assistance of counsel. Providing relevant and readily understandable information about the process would assist these individuals and serve the justice system by helping unrepresented individuals better understand, prepare for, and navigate eviction proceedings.

The Civil Rights Division of the AGO is tasked with enforcing the Arizona Fair Housing Act and, as a result, receives inquiries and complaints from individuals who are facing eviction, or have already been evicted, from their

housing. These individuals are usually facing proceedings that are unfamiliar and daunting to them, they are in the midst of attempting to understand and respond to the impact an eviction could have on their lives, as well as the lives of any of their dependents, and they are often unrepresented and facing a housing provider who has ample resources and is represented by legal counsel. Many individuals undoubtedly have benefitted from the information provided in the REIS and those individuals would benefit further from the clarifying information regarding the eviction process and the edits contained in the Petition. Petitioners' modifications to the REIS improves the resource and makes it more easily understood by individuals who are attempting to navigate the eviction process. The modifications do so by defining legal terms as well as simplifying and clarifying language so as to make the REIS more accessible.

Individuals faced with eviction would also specifically benefit from having accurate contact information for each of the three legal services law firms that provide free representation and information regarding eviction actions. Providing only contact information for Community Legal Services ("CLS") has the potential to create confusion and unnecessary delays during the already expedited eviction process because CLS only serves certain Arizona counties. Thus, the addition of contact information for Southern Arizona Legal Aid and DNA People's Legal Services will help to ensure that no unnecessary barriers are put between

unrepresented individuals and those able to readily provide legal assistance and advice. Overall, granting the Petition would lead to increased access to justice and more transparent and equitable eviction action proceedings.

III. Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, the AGO supports the Petition, R-24-0023.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 30th day of April, 2024

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