

April 30, 2024

To the Honorable Justices of the Arizona Supreme Court,

We, the undersigned managing partners and leaders in the profession across the state, respectfully urge you to reject the petition seeking to limit the activities of the State Bar of Arizona to purely regulatory functions. We believe that granting this petition would undermine the Bar's mission to enhance the legal profession and serve the public. The current structure of our Bar plays a vital role in ensuring a just and competent legal profession and protecting the public. As set forth in Arizona Supreme Court Rule 32, the Bar contributes significantly to our profession and to public protection, beyond attorney regulation, in several ways:

Promoting Professional Development: The Bar offers educational programs and a multitude of resources that keep attorneys up-to-date on legal developments and improve their professional skills.

Promoting Access to Justice: The Bar leads initiatives that provide legal aid to low- and middle-income residents, encourages pro bono work, and promotes access to justice for all. These initiatives serve the public and increase public trust in the legal system.

Community Building: The Bar facilitates networking, mentorship, and collaboration among legal professionals. The connections between our members are strengthened by Bar events, conferences, and committees that help create a thriving legal community.

Limiting the Bar's activities would hinder its ability to fulfill these essential roles. Our well-rounded Bar strengthens the legal profession, promotes professionalism, and serves the public good. We ask that this Court maintain our Bar's multifaceted role so it can continue to serve the public and improve our profession.

Sincerely,

Frances T. Lynch, Bache & Lynch

David J. Armstrong, Ballard Spahr LLP

Patrick J. McGroder III, Beus O'Connor McGroder PLLC

Robert N. Brier, Brier & Hubbard, PLC

Sean K. McElenney, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

Susanne E. Ingold, Burch & Cracchiolo, PA

Nicholas Boca, Cantor Law Group PLLC

William P. Ring, Coconino County Attorney

Daniel G. Dowd, Cohen Dowd Quigley, PC

Jill Chasson, Coppersmith Brockelman PLC

David Lewis, DLA Piper

Christine Whalin, DM Cantor PLLC
Brian Clymer, Esq.
Timothy Medcoff, Farhang & Medcoff PLLC
Nicole M. Goodwin, Greenberg Traurig LLP
Jeremy Zangara, Greenberg Traurig LLP
James Goodnow, Fennemore
Kevin E. O'Malley, Gallagher & Kennedy, PA
Lawrence M. Hecker, Hecker Pew PLLC
John G. Sinodis, Jennings Haug Keleher McLeod LLP
Sean J. O'Hara, Kercksmar & O'Hara LLC
E. Hardy Smith, Lawyer & Mediator
Kenneth Van Winkle, Jr., Lewis Roca
Sam Daniels, McEvoy, Daniels & Darcy, PC
Jonathan Rothschild, Mesch, Clark, Rothschild
Scott W. Rodgers, Osborn Maledon, PA
Scott J. Palumbo, Palumbo Wolfe & Palumbo, PC
Todd R. Kerr, Perkins Coie LLP
Phillip P. Guttilla, Polsinelli
Jason Wood, Quarles & Brady LLP
Brandon B. Rafi, Rafi Law Group PLLC
Leighton H. Rockafellow, Rockafellow Law Firm
Jordan R. Rose, Rose Law Group PC
Mark Rubin, Rubin & Bernstein PLLC
Russell B. Stowers, Russell B. Stowers PLLC
Bryan J. Gottfredson, Sacks Tierney, PA
Ted A. Schmidt, Schmidt, Sethi & Akmajian PC
Barbara J. Dawson, Snell & Wilmer LLP
David E. Funkhouser III, Spencer Fane LLP
Lonnie J. Williams, Jr., Stinson LLP
Benjamin Taylor, Taylor & Gomez LLP
Ronald D. Mercaldo, The Mercaldo Law Firm
Lynda C. Shely, The Shely Firm, PC
Mark S. Bosco, Tiffany & Bosco, PA
Stephen L. West, Udall Shumway PLC
Troy A. Wallin, Wallin Hester PLC
James Whitehill, Whitehill Law Offices, PC