



April 30, 2024

Arizona Supreme Court
1501 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Letter in Opposition to Goldwater Petition

To: The Honorable Justices of the Arizona Supreme Court,

We, the undersigned co-chairs of the Latina Mentoring Project (“LMP”), write to express our strong opposition to the petition currently before this honorable Court which seeks to defund the Bar’s non-regulatory activities.

As many of you know, the LMP was founded by Presiding Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Mary Murguia. What began as a book club has grown into a statewide mentoring and pipeline program with over 350 members. LMP’s goal is to provide support and foster mentoring relationships between Latinas at all stages of life, with a focus on the legal profession. LMP has an active community of women, mentors, and mentees who exchange information, update one another about job and scholarship opportunities, give and request referrals, seek and give advice, and so much more. In furtherance of its goal of increased representation, LMP takes an active role in Arizona’s judicial and commissioner appointment processes by reviewing application materials and submitting letters of recommendation, as appropriate.

Similarly, the State Bar of Arizona, beyond its regulatory duties, engages in critical activities that directly benefit the public and the profession, including: improving access to justice, enhancing diversity, increasing attorney competence, providing mentorship and networking opportunities for members, and educating the public about the rule of law. Several of our members currently or have previously served on Bar committees, participated in the Bar Leadership Institute, or sit on the Board of Governors. One of our co-chairs most recently served as the State Bar President and was the first Latina in that role. The Bar has been an invaluable partner in our efforts to promote diversity within the profession.

These crucial efforts would be severely impacted if the Bar’s mission was limited to just regulatory activities. The Bar’s current structure is an indispensable part of Arizona’s thriving and ethical legal profession. There is simply no reason to alter the Bar’s structure and doing so would be a great detriment to our legal community.

We respectfully urge the Court to reject this petition and maintain the Bar’s ability to continue supporting our legal community.

Sincerely,

Latina Mentoring Project Co-Chairs



Hon. Mina Mendez



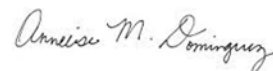
Jessica Sanchez



Hon. Ashley
Villaverde Halvorson



Julieta Carrillo



Annelise M.
Dominguez