

1 Lisa M. Panahi, Bar No. 023421  
2 General Counsel  
3 State Bar of Arizona  
4 4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100  
5 Phoenix, AZ 85016-6288  
6 (602) 340-7236

7 **IN THE SUPREME COURT**  
8 **STATE OF ARIZONA**

9 In the Matter of:

Supreme Court No. R-24-0023

10 **PETITION TO AMEND**  
11 **APPENDIX A OF THE ARIZONA**  
12 **RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR**  
13 **EVICITION ACTIONS**

**STATE BAR OF ARIZONA**  
**COMMENT**

14 Pursuant to Rule 28(e) of the Arizona Rules of Supreme Court, the State Bar  
15 of Arizona (the “State Bar”) hereby submits the following as its comment to the  
16 above-captioned Petition.

17 After study and discussion by the State Bar’s Civil Practice and Procedure  
18 Committee, the State Bar supports the Petition to revise the Residential Eviction  
19 Information Sheet (“REIS”) and submits this Comment urging the Court to adopt  
20 the Petition.  
21

22 **I. INTRODUCTION**

23 The State Bar is in support of any efforts to make a court form or any  
24 accompanying instructions more user-friendly in the interests of greater access to  
25

1 justice. If a court form is unintelligible to many of its lay users, that is problematic  
2 even if it is intelligible to an attorney. The State Bar applauds petitioners' efforts to  
3 improve accuracy, completeness, and plain language in the REIS. Also laudable is  
4 the participation of Community Legal Services, DNA People's Legal Services, and  
5 Southern Arizona Legal Aid, all of which provided substantial input on the substance  
6 and linguistic details of proposed revisions based on their day-to-day experiences  
7 with clients utilizing the current REIS.  
8  
9

10 The State Bar has only a few minor changes to suggest:

- 11 ➤ In the third line of the REIS, under Notice, the words "In certain cases, if"  
12 should be deleted and the words, "In cases where" should be inserted in  
13 their place.
- 14 ➤ The State Bar questions the use of the word "can" in place of "may"  
15 throughout the document, as we believe that imprecise or non-standard  
16 English usage in official documents has the potential to confuse tenants,  
17 lawyers, or the court even if it is commonplace in colloquial speech. This  
18 confusion factor may tend to outweigh any purported plain-English  
19 advantage.
- 20 ➤ The "Legal Representation" section only references attorneys representing  
21 parties in these cases. However, if legal paraprofessionals are eligible to  
22  
23  
24  
25

1 represent both landlords and tenants in eviction matters, that reference  
2 should be added.

3 **II. CONCLUSION**

4  
5 Based on the above, and with the suggested changes, the State Bar of Arizona  
6 urges the Court to grant this Petition.

7  
8 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2024.

9 

10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 Lisa M. Panahi  
12 General Counsel

13  
14 Electronic copy filed with the  
15 Clerk of the Supreme Court of Arizona  
16 this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2024.

17 by: PSequin