

April 21, 2025

To the Honorable Justices of the Arizona Supreme Court,

We, the undersigned past presidents of the State Bar of Arizona, write to express our strong opposition to the petition currently before this honorable Court which seeks to eliminate the mandatory, integrated State Bar of Arizona.

As individuals who have dedicated our careers to improving the state's legal profession and promoting access to justice, we believe the proposed change would significantly undermine the essential role that our Bar plays in advancing the legal community and serving the public interest.

Beyond its regulatory duties, the Bar 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.

The proposed rule change eliminates the Bar's responsibility to organize and promote activities to fulfill the responsibilities of the legal profession to the public and promote access to justice from the rule. Simply stated, this runs contrary to the Supreme Court's emphasis on access to justice and recent collaboration between the Court and Bar on a number of innovations to this end. The Bar's current structure is an indispensable part of Arizona's thriving and ethical legal profession, positioned to best serve the public. Also, as studies have repeatedly shown in the past, the Bar also has fulfilled its mission and activities at a cost far less than could be accomplished if it were a state operated agency.

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

Sincerely,

Don Bivens

Don Bivens

Past President, State Bar of Arizona and on behalf of the following past presidents

Frederick M. "Fritz" Aspey
Roxana C. Bacon
Alan P. Bayham Jr.
Ernest Calderón
Hon. Bryan B. Chambers
Amelia Craig Cramer
Whitney Cunningham

Raymond A. Hanna
Lisa S. Loo
Michael R. Murphy
Edward F. Novak
Michael L. Piccarreta
Richard T. Platt
Jennifer R. Rebholz

Tom Slutes
Jimmie D. Smith
Benjamin Taylor
Geoffrey M. Trachtenberg
Pamela A. Treadwell-Rubin
Alex Vakula
Jeffrey Willis



April 21, 2025

Page 2

Stanley G. Feldman
Denis M. Fitzgibbons
Hon. Brian Y. Furuya
Helen Perry Grimwood

Dee-Dee Samet
Jessica S. Sanchez
Robert E. Schmitt
Kenneth J. Sherk

Charles W. Wirken
Robert B. Van Wyck
Thomas A. Zlaket