

April 28, 2025

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 end the mandatory, integrated State Bar of Arizona and shift the regulatory and CLE functions to the Administrative Office of the Courts. Granting this petition would eliminate the Bar's current Court-mandated role of organizing and promoting activities that fulfill the responsibilities of the legal profession to the public and its role in promoting access to justice. Further, it would undermine existing programs aimed at helping legal professionals in their practice. 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 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.

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.

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.

In recent years, consistent with its stated mission, the Bar has supported several Arizona Supreme Court innovations aimed at improving access to justice. This petition leaves such future cooperation on these issues and other public service functions to the discretion of a voluntary bar. Additionally, the Court considered and rejected a petition last year, which sought to limit bar activities. In doing so, the Court determined *Keller* remained the appropriate standard governing bar activities. The legal landscape has not changed since then. 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,

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