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**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of	) Supreme Court No. R-24-0060
	)
<u>AMENDED</u> PETITION TO AMEND	) COMMENTS OF THE ARIZONA
RULES 22 & 77, ARIZONA RULES	) COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO
OF FAMILY PROCEDURE	) JUSTICE SUPPORTING THE
	) PETITION

The Arizona Commission on Access to Justice is charged with considering and recommending innovative ways to promote access to justice for individuals who cannot afford legal counsel or who choose to represent themselves in civil cases. Established in 2014, the Commission evaluates best practices, identifies possible changes in court rules or practices to reduce barriers to access, identifies and encourages the adoption of best practices among legal service providers, and considers potential long-term funding options.

Following a presentation at the April 10, 2025, Commission meeting, a motion was made and seconded that the Commission support Rule Change Petition No. R-24-0060. After discussion by members of the Commission, that motion

passed. This Comment is a result of that formal Commission action and is intended to reflect the Commission's support of the changes requested in the Petition.

This Petition addresses family law cases where there is a self-represented litigant. The Petition would amend the Rules of Family Law Procedure to allow a judicial officer to conduct direct examination of a self-represented party unless there is a request otherwise. The amendment would still allow for cross-examination and presentation of evidence not elicited by the judicial officer. The amendment also ensures, however, that the court obtains the necessary information for its findings and ensures self-represented litigants' due process rights because it specifically requires that each party have an opportunity to testify, present evidence and conduct direct and cross examinations. This Petition assists in access to justice by ensuring that self-represented litigants provide the necessary information to resolve their case but also helps those that may be intimidated by court processes.

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For these reasons, the Commission supports the adoption of the proposed amendments requested in Petition No. R-24-0060.

DATED this 30th day of April 2025.

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