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**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

	) Supreme Court No. R-25-0001
IN THE MATTER OF PETITION TO	)
AMEND SUPREME COURT RULE	) COMMENTS OF THE ARIZONA
32(A)–(M)	) COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO
	) JUSTICE OPPOSING 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 oppose Rule Change Petition No. R-25-0001. After discussion by members of the Commission, that motion passed

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

This Petition would amend Arizona Supreme Court Rule 32 to make the State Bar of Arizona a voluntary association without regulatory authority and to transfer that authority to the Administrative Officer of the Courts under a proposed Rule 32.2. The Commission believes that adoption of the Petition would negatively impact, in significant ways, access to justice efforts in Arizona carried out by the State Bar of Arizona and its partners.

The State Bar of Arizona has been a mandatory bar association since 1933, with lawyers required to be members to practice Arizona law. As part of its mission, the State Bar of Arizona is tasked with addressing and enhancing access to justice in our state. To fulfill that mission, it works to make the profession better and to better enhance the ability to serve the public. Ending the mandatory membership requirement of the State Bar of Arizona would have a negative impact on these efforts, and on access to justice broadly.

The Petition seeks changes that would strip out the public mission of the State Bar of Arizona. Such changes would not make the profession better and would frustrate the significant efforts being taken to protect and better serve the public.

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For these reasons, the Commission opposes the adoption of the proposed amendments requested in Petition No. R-25-0001.

DATED this 30th day of April 2025.

_____/s/_____
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