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April 30, 2025

RE: Los Abogados Opposes Proposed Amendment to Rule 32 (A) - (M), which would have a devastating effect on the practice of law in Arizona.

Los Abogados Hispanic Bar Association (“Los Abogados”) *opposes* the petition dated January 2, 2025, seeking to amend Rule 32(A) - (M) (“Rule 32”), of the Arizona Supreme Court (“Court”) governing membership in the State Bar of Arizona (“State Bar”) that would: (a) make the State Bar a voluntary association; and (b) transfer all regulatory functions of the State Bar to the Court.

The petition asks this Court to create a new structure to assume the responsibilities currently assigned to the State Bar regarding attorney discipline and continuing learning education (“CLE”) compliance. The petition suggests the Court would have the entire State Bar’s budget to develop and manage the new departments. This means the Court would have to charge the same fees without offering the same services.

In addition to the regulation of the practice of law, the Arizona legal community, and the public at large, depends on the State Bar’s commitment to “*serve and protect the public with respect to the provision of legal services and access to justice.*” Los Abogados strongly believes that the petition would have a devastating effect on this aspect of the State Bar’s function, depriving the public of the following important programs:

- Ethics Hotline
- Fee Arbitration Program
- Providing resources and assistance to partner bar organizations, such as Los Abogados and may other important organizations
- Initiatives aimed at improving lawyer well-being
- Educational programs that substantially benefit lawyers, the legal community, and the public
- Pro bono legal service events for low and middle-income Arizonans

These services and initiatives of the State Bar provide valuable support for all lawyers, especially young lawyers and lawyers of color, both underrepresented in leadership roles. These programs offer confidential guidance, a trusted resource to navigate complex professional situations, promote mentorship, and create spaces where shared experiences and advocacy efforts can flourish. These programs also help reduce stress, burnout, and isolation, which are challenges that disproportionately affect underrepresented groups. Simply put, without these programs, many members of our legal community—and in turn clients from vulnerable communities—would be deprived of much-needed services.

Los Abogados strongly supports the State Bar and recognizes its importance in our state. The proposed amendment would have a devastating effect on the State Bar, our profession, and our state. We strongly urge this Court to refrain from adopting the proposed Rule 32 amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adriana Genco', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adriana Genco | President
Los Abogados Hispanic Bar Association