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**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of:

**PETITION TO AMEND RULE
32(a)(2), ARIZONA RULES OF
SUPREME COURT**

Supreme Court No. R-26-

**STATE BAR OF ARIZONA
PETITION**

Pursuant to Rule 28(a) of the Arizona Rules of Supreme Court, the State Bar of Arizona (the “State Bar”) hereby petitions the Court to amend the Mission Statement phrasing in Rule 32(a)(2), Arizona Rules of the Supreme Court, to specifically reference support for the “Rule of Law.”

State Bar President Ted A. Schmidt, on August 15, 2024, appointed a select group of judicial officers and attorneys, including the law school deans, to explore initiatives for the promotion of the Rule of Law. The Task Force completed its work in the fall of 2024 and issued its Report of findings and recommendations on December 13, 2024. That Report sets forth a series of recommendations, after focusing on actionable ways in which the Arizona legal community could further foster confidence in the justice system.

1 As a mandatory bar, the Task Force was mindful of the requirements from
2 *Keller v. The State Bar of California*, 496 U.S. 1 (1990), and its evolving progeny.
3 Through its study, with due consideration to improving the quality of legal services,
4 the Task Force stated that respect for “the Rule of Law is fundamental to our
5 democracy . . . [and that] lawyers must play a key role in furthering the public’s
6 understanding of and confidence in the Rule of Law.”¹
7

8 The State Bar supports and adopts the recommendation of the Task Force that
9 a modification of Rule 32(a)(2) will advance the involvement of the Arizona legal
10 community in the goal of a broader understanding of the Rule of Law. Their
11 straightforward recommendation was the simple addition of a phrase to the State
12 Bar’s mission statement.
13
14

15 The proposed amendment is as follows:

16 **Rule 32. Organization of the State Bar of Arizona**

17 (a)(1) No change.

18 (a)(2) *Mission*. The State Bar of Arizona exists to serve and protect the public
19 with respect to the provision of legal services ~~and~~ access to justice, and
20 promoting confidence in the Rule of Law.

21 (a)(2)(A–E) No change.
22

23 Attached as Appendix A is the proposal for this amendment, with Appendix
24

25 ¹ Report from Rule of Law Task Force, p. 2 (Dec. 13, 2024)

1 B reflecting the “clean” formatting for the modified Rule. There has been no similar
2 requested amendment to this rule within the previous five (5) years.
3

4 **CONCLUSION**

5 The State Bar of Arizona respectfully requests that the Court modify the State
6 Bar of Arizona’s mission statement, as established in Rule 32(a)(2), to specifically
7 reference the inclusion of promoting the Rule of Law.
8

9 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 12th day of January, 2026.
10

11 /s/ Richard L. Palmatier, Jr.

12 Richard L. Palmatier, Jr.
13 Assistant General Counsel
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16 Electronic copy filed with the
17 Clerk of the Supreme Court of Arizona
18 this 12th day of January, 2026.

19 by: PSequin
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APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A - Redline

Additions to the text of a rule are shown by underscoring and deletions are shown by ~~strike-through~~.

Rule 32. Organization of the State Bar of Arizona

(a) State Bar of Arizona. The Supreme Court of Arizona maintains under its direction and control a corporate organization known as the State Bar of Arizona.

1. *Practice of law.* Every person licensed by this Court to engage in the practice of law must be a member of the State Bar of Arizona in accordance with these rules.

2. *Mission.* The State Bar of Arizona exists to serve and protect the public with respect to the provision of legal services, ~~and~~ access to justice, and promoting confidence in the Rule of Law. Consistent with these goals, the State Bar of Arizona seeks to improve the administration of justice and the competency, ethics, and professionalism of lawyers and those engaged in the authorized practice of law in Arizona. This Court empowers the State Bar of Arizona, under the Court's supervision, to:

A. – E. [No change]

(b – m) [No change]

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B - Clean

Rule 32. Organization of the State Bar of Arizona

(a) State Bar of Arizona. The Supreme Court of Arizona maintains under its direction and control a corporate organization known as the State Bar of Arizona.

1. *Practice of law.* Every person licensed by this Court to engage in the practice of law must be a member of the State Bar of Arizona in accordance with these rules.
2. *Mission.* The State Bar of Arizona exists to serve and protect the public with respect to the provision of legal services, access to justice and promoting confidence in the Rule of Law. Consistent with these goals, the State Bar of Arizona seeks to improve the administration of justice and the competency, ethics, and professionalism of lawyers and those engaged in the authorized practice of law in Arizona. This Court empowers the State Bar of Arizona, under the Court's supervision, to:

A. – E. [No change]

(b – m) [No change]