

The James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona supports the petition to amend rule 38(d)(3). The amendment will help to increase volunteer opportunities for law students and permit law schools, volunteer lawyer programs, and the judiciary to work together across the state. In partnership, we can design programs that follow the Supreme Court's "Good to Great" initiative by assisting the court system with self-represented litigants.

Passage of this rule is not only important for the State of Arizona, but could once again put Arizona law schools, volunteer lawyer programs, and the State of Arizona judiciary in the forefront of original programming for community service initiatives.

The student volunteer programs and the clinical programs at Arizona Law are two distinctly different areas. The attached suggested modifications to the proposed rule would further clarify the differences between the two. The proposed amendment to the rule would facilitate the development of new volunteer programs at the request of the court.

The partnership between Arizona Law and the Volunteer Lawyers Program, now in its eighth year, has provided hundreds of our law students with meaningful, high-quality volunteer opportunities. These volunteer activities have proven to be a very successful way to foster a pro bono ethic among our students, and interest in such volunteer activities increases every year. Participation has gone from 77 in 2003 to over 120 in 2005 and 2006. To date, more than 480 law students have volunteered with the VLP Advocates Program. The proposed amendment will allow this ongoing partnership to grow and permit the investigation of new programming opportunities.

In sum, the proposed amendment would serve as a vehicle for increasing pro bono opportunities for law students, serving to further cultivate a pro bono ethic in future members of the Arizona Bar.



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