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(For himself and others)

**IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of:

Petition to Amend Rule 31
Rules of the Supreme Court

} Supreme Court No. R-15-0018

} Comment to Petition to Amend Rule 31,
Supreme Court of Arizona

Several Superior Court Judges have commented that the proposed amendment to Rule 31, Supreme Court of Arizona has removed the exemption for mediators who are employed, appointed, or controlled by the Courts. The Judges have argued that such persons, though they may not be attorneys, are able to draft written agreements resulting from their mediation sessions because they are chosen by the Courts for their educational and professional backgrounds.

As practitioners in the field, we are not opposed to restoring an exemption for such Court employed, appointed, or controlled mediators from the amended rule's requirement that a non-lawyer mediator have a LDP certification if the non-lawyer mediator creates settlement documents for the parties.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of May, 2015.

/s/ Jerome Allan Landau

Jerome Allan Landau, Esq.

/s/ David C. Tierney

David C. Tierney, Esq.

/s/ Jonathan David Conant
Jonathan David Conant, Esq.

/s/ John T. Jozwick
John T. Jozwick, Esq.

/s/ Robert F. Copple
Robert F. Copple, Esq.

/s/ Renee B. Gerstman
Renee B. Gerstman, Esq.

/s/ Thom K. Cope
Thom K. Cope, Esq.

/s/ Franklin D. Troy Dodge
Franklin D. Troy Dodge, Esq.

/s/ Sherman D. Fogel
Sherman D. Fogel, Esq.

/s/ Richard A. Friedlander
Richard A. Friedlander, Esq.

/s/ Alona M. Gottfried
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/s/ Steven M. Guttell

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/s/ Winn L. Sammons

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/s/ Chad James Schatz

Chad James Schatz, Esq.

/s/ Jon Trachta

Jon Trachta, Esq.

/s/ Bruce E. Meyerson

Bruce E. Meyerson, Esq.

Cc: Hon. Ann A. Scott Timmer
Chair, Committee on the Review
of the Supreme Court Rules Governing
Professional Conduct and the Practice of Law