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IN THE ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

In the matter of) Supreme Court R- 06-0024
)
PETITION TO CREATE NEW RULE) COMMENT TO PROPOSED RULE
15.10, DEALING WITH EX PARTE) RELATED TO EX PARTE
COMMUNICATIONS, PROCEEDINGS) COMMUNICATIONS
OR REQUESTS IN THE RULES OF)
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)
_____)

The Arizona Association of Superior Court Clerks (AASCC) submits the following comments on the petition to create new rule 15.10 dealing with ex parte communications, proceedings or requests in the rules of criminal procedures:

The AASCC supports the business practice represented by including all parties to a case in the events of that case and reserving ex parte communications for those situations that justice requires. Reducing the number of ex parte communications improves the public's trust in and involvement with the court system. While the potential for more court hearings exists, and thus the need for court clerks to spend more time staffing those hearings and generating minute entries, the benefits of an open court system outweigh the increased responsibilities. Further, uniform practice in holding ex parte communications will provide consistency when developing clerk procedures.

