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8 **IN THE SUPREME COURT**  
9 **STATE OF ARIZONA**

10 In the Matter of:

11 **PETITION TO AMEND RULE**  
12 **49(a), ARIZONA RULES OF CIVIL**  
13 **PROCEDURE**

14 Supreme Court No. R-16-0018

15 **COMMENT OF**  
16 **THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA**

17 The State Bar of Arizona supports the proposal to amend Rule 49(a) of the  
18 Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure, for all of the reasons stated in the Petition.  
19 Specifically, the requested rule change appropriately clarifies the existing rule to  
20 expressly address the issue of juror privacy. As stated in the Petition, “[p]ermitting  
21 jurors to sign the verdict form using juror numbers and initials provides sufficient  
22 evidence that the juror agrees with the verdict while protecting the juror’s privacy.”  
23 Pet. at 2. The State Bar also supports the proposal to amend the rule to incorporate  
24 gender-neutral language.

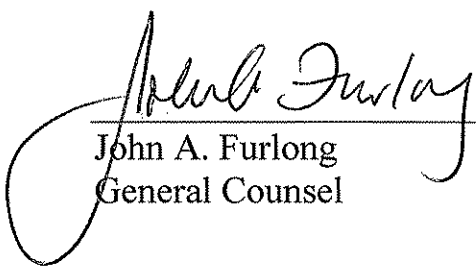
25 In expressing its support for the revision, the State Bar notes that the Petition  
does not address the proposed revision and restyling of this rule submitted by the

1 Task Force on the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure. Pet. R-16-0010, App. 1b, at  
2 161-62. The State Bar supports the proposed restyling of Rule 49 as submitted by  
3 the Task Force. To assist the Court and the Task Force in harmonizing these two  
4 Petitions, the State Bar proposes incorporating the language proposed in Petition R-  
5 16-0018 into proposed restyled Rule 49(d), as shown on Exhibit 1 to this Comment.  
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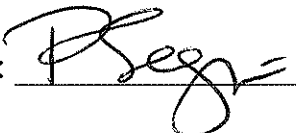
7 **CONCLUSION**  
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9 For the reasons stated above, the State Bar supports amendment of Rule 49 to  
10 address the issue of juror privacy as proposed in Petition R-16-0018, and urges the  
11 Court to adopt the change.  
12

13 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.  
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16   
17 John A. Furlong  
18 General Counsel

19 Electronic copy filed with the  
20 Clerk of the Arizona Supreme Court  
21 this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.

22 by:   
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