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8 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA SUPREME COURT**

9 In the Matter of

10 PETITION IN SUPPORT OF
11 REVISION OF THE RULES FOR
12 ADMISSION TO THE BAR OF
13 ARIZONA

Supreme Court No. R-06-0017

**COMMENT OF STATE BAR
OPPOSING PETITION TO
REVISE RULE FOR ADMISSION
TO THE STATE BAR OF
ARIZONA**

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15 Under the Rule proposed in Petition R-06-0017, certain practitioners who are
16 licensed in other jurisdictions could be admitted to practice law in Arizona on motion,
17 on an unlimited basis, without taking the Arizona Bar Exam or any other test on
18 Arizona law or practice. The Board of Governors of the State Bar of Arizona, at its
19 April 2007 regular meeting, voted 17-3 to oppose the Petition.
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22 Because Admission on Motion could have significant ramifications, the Board
23 of Governors has taken great care to evaluate and consider the arguments made by the
24 proponents of the petition, as well as those who are opposed to it. A special
25 Committee of the Board met several times on these issues, and the membership was
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1 surveyed to make sure that all opinions, arguments and insights were being
2 considered. Of the nearly 2,200 active members who responded to the survey, 60%
3 opposed admission on motion. The Board also reviewed and considered over 800
4 written comments submitted by members. Additionally, the proponents of the Petition
5 spoke to the Board at its March 2007 meeting, addressing various comments and
6 questions. The following synthesizes the Board's basic concerns.
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9 The proposed rule change would make most lawyers in the Nation eligible for
10 unlimited admission to practice law in Arizona, without being tested on their
11 knowledge of Arizona law, rules or practice. As a Sunbelt state with the fastest-
12 growing population in the Nation, Arizona will become the perfect target for
13 expansion by out-of-state firms, including those with substantial advertising budgets,
14 regardless of whether they have any substantial Arizona practice, reside here, or know
15 Arizona law.
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18 Proponents of this change argue that eliminating Arizona's bar exam
19 requirement will benefit Arizona lawyers by making them eligible for admission on
20 motion to other states. Our Sunbelt neighbors, however – California, New Mexico
21 and Nevada – do not permit admission on motion. Thus, this proposal will simply not
22 enlarge or improve the practice of most Arizona lawyers.
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