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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the matter of:)	
)	Supreme Court No. R-20-0013
PETITION TO AMEND VARIOUS)	
RULES OF PROCEDURE RELATED)	Request to Defer Consideration
TO CREATING THE VERBATIM)	of Petition Until August 2021
RECORD OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS)	Rules Agenda
)	
_____)	

David K. Byers, Administrative Director, Administrative Office of the Courts, and petitioner in this matter, hereby files a request to defer ruling on petition R-20-0013 until the Court’s annual rules agenda in August 2021.

I. Introduction and Background

Arizona, consistent with nationwide trends, is experiencing a shortage and unavailability of court reporters. It is in this context that former Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Scott Bales issued Administrative Order No. 2019-49, establishing the Arizona Task Force to Supplement Keeping of the Record by Electronic Means (“Task Force”). In part, the Task Force was charged with developing recommended changes to court rules to permit courts to create and

maintain a complete and accurate court record electronically to supplement the use of court reporters and to prevent backlogs and delays in resolving disputes in the trial courts and on appeal. With the strong support of the Arizona Judicial Council and the Superior Court Presiding Judges, and input from the general and limited jurisdiction courts, Petitioner filed a rule petition on January 9, 2020, reflecting these recommended changes.

Changes to legislation, endorsed by the Arizona Judicial Council, were simultaneously proposed so that any changes to court rules would align with the Arizona Revised Statutes. The proposed bill was placed on hold due to interruptions in the legislature as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, an amended version reflecting stakeholder negotiations will be reintroduced in the upcoming legislative session. To that end, Petitioner is requesting that the Court defer ruling on petition R-20-0013 so that the rule petition can be amended, if necessary, to ensure that the proposed rule changes comport with any changes in legislation.

II. Request

The undersigned therefore requests that this Court defer ruling on petition R-20-0013 until its annual rules agenda in August 2021 and permit Petitioner to file an amended petition, if necessary, by June 4, 2021. The undersigned suggests that

the comment period for this petition remain open until July 9, 2021, and Petitioner may reply to the comments by July 23, 2021.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 27th day of October, 2020.

By /s/ David K. Byers
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