



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 13, 2009

Arizona Supreme Court
1501 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3231

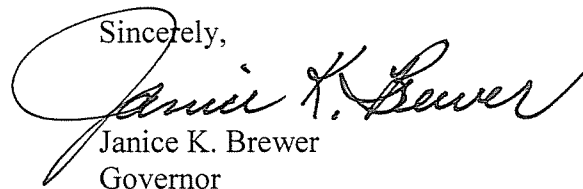
Re: R-08-0016 Petition to Amend Rule 35(b) Arizona Rules
of the Supreme Court

Dear Chief Justice McGregor and Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

I am in support of the pending petition to add Indian Law as a subject to be tested on the Arizona State Bar Examination. As Governor of the great State of Arizona, I support the effort to require proof of competency to practice law prior to admission and believe that a basic knowledge of tribal jurisdiction and sovereign immunity is essential for all practicing lawyers in our State.

Arizona's bar examination focuses on those areas most relevant to Arizona practice. Within the borders of Arizona lies more Indian reservation land than within any other state. With twenty-two tribes that control almost one-third of the state's land base, all lawyers are very likely to confront Indian law issues at some point in their practice. A fundamental understanding of whether a tribe has jurisdiction over land, a person and ultimately a matter, or whether a tribe is immune from suit, is necessary knowledge for all Arizona lawyers.

I commend you for the work you do on behalf of the people of Arizona. I know you will scrutinize this proposal with the same rigor and thought you apply to all matters coming before the Court. I thank you for the time spent reviewing this comment and hope that it is useful to you as you deliberate on this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

JKB/kn/jk