



April 15, 2021

The Arizona Justice Alliance (AJA) was established in 2012 as a network of organizations working on issues related to criminal justice and prison. The mission of AJA is to identify and recommend changes to Arizona's justice-related laws and practices to preserve and enhance public safety, reduce prison populations and decrease corrections spending so that state resources can be invested in critical services that prevent crime, protect citizens, and fulfill state priorities.

We write in support of R-21-0008 Petition to Amend the Arizona Rules of Supreme Court to Adopt New Rule 24 on Jury Selection. One of the fundamentals of this country is that everyone is accountable under the law and everyone is treated the same under the law. Unfortunately, we all know that is not a reality. Racial discrimination is so well documented we don't even need to argue about that. Sexual discrimination is as well documented and existed even in the law when women could not be on juries, could not be lawyers, and could not even sue in court.

Arizona has a long history of racial discrimination as indicated by the fact that it was a pre-clearance state under the original voting rights act because of a history of denying the vote to Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans. While AZ was ahead of the country in allowing women to vote, it stopped that forward progress in 1972 and hasn't moved since.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Suzann J Braga

Email: suebraga56@gmail.com