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Arizona Women Lawyers Association

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AZ Bar #023400

RE: Petition to Amend Rule 45(a)(2), Ariz.R.Sup.Ct.

The Arizona Women Lawyers Association (AWLA) submits this comment in support of R-21-0016 Petition to Amend Rule 45(a)(2), Ariz.R.Sup.Ct. The proposed amendment seeks to implement a requirement that all active Arizona licensed attorneys complete 1.0 hour of continuing legal education (CLE) on diversity and inclusion. This yearly CLE requirement would be part of the 3.0 hour mandatory continuing legal education (MCLE). Education that promotes equality for all attorneys in Arizona is aligned with the AWLA mission statement that calls for promoting and encouraging the success of women lawyers.

The adoption of this amendment will clearly demonstrate the support and commitment of our legal community to diversity and inclusion. It will signal to those in Arizona and across the country that we value contributions made by diverse attorneys and recognize we are stronger when we challenge and combat bias. Mandating all attorneys to complete this requirement once a year will undoubtedly raise awareness and build collaboration among members of the State Bar of Arizona. It will result in bringing us one step closer to our collective goal of achieving true diversity and inclusion within the legal profession.

AWLA fully supports this proposed amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Peña-Lynch

President

Arizona Women Lawyers Association