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*On behalf of the Arizona Minority Bar Association*

IN THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA

In the matter of:

PETITION TO AMEND THE RULES  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF  
ARIZONA TO ADOPT RULE 24--  
JURY SELECTION

Supreme Court No. R-21-0008

COMMENT TO PETITION TO  
AMEND THE RULES OF THE  
SUPREME COURT TO ADOPT  
PROPOSED RULE 24-JURY  
SELECTION

Pursuant to Rule 28(D), Rules of the Supreme Court, the Arizona Minority Bar Association (“AMBA”) respectfully submits this Comment for the Court’s consideration in support of the *Batson* Jury Selection Working Group’s Petition to Amend the Rules of the Supreme Court of Arizona to Adopt Proposed Rule 24--Jury Selection (the “Petition”).

The Arizona Minority Bar Association (“AMBA”) was developed to further the interest, education and advancement of racial and ethnic minorities in law-related areas, and to advance the awareness and availability of legal services specifically targeting racial and ethnic minorities and legal issues that impact such community. In order to accomplish these goals, AMBA implements and participates in a number of activities, not limited to

those that promote diversity at all levels of the legal field, but also activities that educate our community and that advocate on behalf of people and issues relating to racial and ethnic minorities.

AMBA respectfully requests that the Supreme Court adopt Proposed Rule 24 for the reasons set forth in the Petition. AMBA shares the working group's concern that the current jury selection system is unfairly biased and does not provide adequate safeguards to prevent discrimination or ensure fair deliberations in our courts. AMBA maintains that such a change would be consistent with the goals of our organization and would create a more equitable jury selection process where all people have equal access to justice. AMBA's Board of Director's strongly encourages the Arizona Supreme Court to adopt the proposed rule in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2021.

*/s/ Annamarie L. Valdivia*

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Annamarie L. Valdivia, President  
Arizona Minority Bar Association