

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE) Administrative Order
TASK FORCE ON THE ARIZONA) No. 2015 – 123
RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)
AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS)
_____)

This Court’s Strategic Agenda, *Advancing Justice Together: Courts and Communities*, includes the review of certain Arizona court rules to restyle, simplify, and clarify the rules. This Court has recently adopted restyled Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure, Rules of Evidence, Justice Court Rules of Civil Procedure, and Rules of Protective Order Procedure.

Work is now underway by this Court’s Task Force on the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure. In establishing that task force, Administrative Order No. 2014-116 noted that “Language in long-established court rules may be archaic, and modernizing the style and format of rules can make them more comprehensible and user-friendly for litigants, judges, and attorneys.” That Order also noted that court rules require periodic review and revision to keep pace with technology and to accommodate changing case management systems. Similar principles apply to the criminal rules.

The current set of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure were promulgated in 1973. Although they have been amended at various times since their adoption more than four decades ago, a comprehensive review of those rules would now be beneficial.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. ESTABLISHMENT: The Task Force on the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure is hereby established.
2. PURPOSE: The Task Force shall review the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure to identify possible changes to conform to modern usage and to clarify and simplify language. These changes should promote the just resolution of cases without unnecessary delay or complexity. The Task Force shall seek input from various interested persons and entities with the goal of submitting a rule petition by January 2017, with respect to any proposed rule changes.

3. MEMBERSHIP: The individuals listed in Appendix A are appointed as members of the Task Force beginning January 1, 2016, and ending on December 31, 2017. The Chief Justice may appoint additional members as may be necessary.

4. MEETINGS: Task Force meetings shall be scheduled at the discretion of the Chair. The Task Force shall hold its initial meeting at a time determined by its Chair but no later than March 1, 2016. All meetings shall comply with the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 1-202: Public Meetings.

5. STAFF: The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the Task Force and shall assist the Task Force in developing recommendations and preparing any necessary reports and petitions.

Dated this 16th day of December, 2015.

SCOTT BALES
Chief Justice

Appendix A

Task Force on the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure

Chair

Hon. Joseph Welty
Superior Court in Maricopa County

Members

Paul Ahler
Arizona Attorney General's Office

Hon. Kent Cattani
Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One

Tim Eckstein
Osborn Maledon, Phoenix

David Euchner
Pima County Public Defender

Hon. Maria Felix
Pima County Consolidated Justice Court

Hon. Richard Fields
Superior Court in Pima County

Hon. Pamela Gates
Superior Court in Maricopa County

Bill Hughes
Yavapai County Attorney's Office

Hon. Eric Jeffery
Phoenix Municipal Court

Kellie Johnson
Pima County Attorney's Office

Amy Kalman
Maricopa County Public Defender

Jason Kreag
James E. Rogers College of Law
University of Arizona

Jerry Landau
Administrative Office of the Courts

Hon. Mark Moran
Superior Court in Coconino County

Natman Schaye
Arizona Capital Representation Project

Hon. Paul Tang
Superior Court in Pima County

Ken Vick
Maricopa County Attorney's Office