



Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

P.O. Box 1269
100 Circle Drive
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
Ph# (208) 267-3519
Fax (208) 267-2960

April 28, 2020

Filed Electronically via Azcourts.gov

RE: Supreme Court Rule 39

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho comments in support of the proposed amendment to Supreme Court Rule 39 which would waive pro hac vice requirements for out of state tribal attorneys participating in child welfare hearings pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

The Indian Child Welfare Act is a critical law that helps protect the best interests of our Indian children and promotes the stability of Indian tribes and families. ICWA recognizes that removing children from Indian communities harms children who are denied the benefit of tribal culture and community.

Removing barriers to tribal involvement in these cases will reduce the financial burden on Tribes' limited resources and help with early tribal involvement and better outcomes for our children.

The proposed amendment will promote better protection for Indian children in Arizona Courts and should be approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gary Aitken, Jr.', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gary Aitken, Jr.
Chairman