## NACJ

## Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice

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FILED FEB 17 2016 TRACIE K. LINDEMAN

CHIEF DEPINTY CLERK

16 - 05024

RE: <u>ADKT 0499</u>, <u>Response to Public Hearing held on</u> December 8, 2015

Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice (NACJ) is a non-profit, voluntary member organization composed of criminal defense attorneys throughout Nevada. Its mission is to ensure excellence in the representation of clients facing criminal charges in this state. NACJ typically meets once a month to discuss matters affecting criminal law and procedure and offers its members extensive resources relevant to their practice. Resources include a forum for discussion on questions affecting daily practice, the ability to moot cases, a quarterly publication, Unreasonable Doubt, featuring newsworthy articles affecting criminal practice, and approximately 6 hours of CLE credits to its members at no cost. NACJ does not receive any grants or any form of outside funding. The organization relies largely on membership dues to carry out its mission.

One of the benefits NACJ offers to attract membership is the ability to attend CLEs at no cost to its members. These CLEs are typically presented by volunteer attorneys with a commitment to NACJ or by partnering with other organizations who will invite NACJ to attend their CLEs at no cost. The proposed changes to the CLE Board's funding would drastically impact the existence of this organization. Annual sponsor accreditation fees, as well as per person credit fees, would create an insurmountable cost to NACJ as it has no means to offset this cost. Unlike other organizations, NACJ offers CLEs at no cost to its members. In this same vein, NACJ operates under an incredibly restrained budget and would not be able to absorb these proposed costs.

We are respectfully requesting that an exemption be created for organizations such as NACJ that would waive the proposed annual fee and per person credit fees. This would allow NACJ to continue providing its members the services it currently provides, which impacts the level of practice of criminal law in Nevada. NACJ appreciates your consideration of this request.

Issue of the grant and the grant Sincerely,

Lance Hendron NACJ President