WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW

September 21, 2023

FILED

Via email to nvscclerk@nvcourts.nv.gov

Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of Nevada c/o Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of the Supreme Court 201 South Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701-4702 CLERY OF JUPPEME COLOR

RE:

Written Comment Regarding Petition and Amendment to Petition Filed by Associate Chief Justice Elissa F. Cadish, Co-Chair of the Access to Justice Commission, Regarding Adoption of Supreme Court Rule 49.5 (ADKT 0611)

Dear Honorable Members of the Supreme Court of Nevada:

Pursuant to the Court's August 15, 2023, Order Scheduling Public Hearing regarding the above-referenced matter, we write in support of ADKT 0611, a petition seeking the adoption of Supreme Court Rule 49.5 filed on July 27, 2023, and the Amendment to Petition filed on September 15, 2023.

As the Director of the Externship Program and Assistant Dean of Career Development at the William S. Boyd School of Law, we assist students who seek employment opportunities and experiential opportunities in judicial, government, and public interest placements. These opportunities allow students to learn about the practice of law in real world settings and begin to develop their professional identity as future lawyers. We also work with terrific community partners who supervise and mentor law students, including legal aid providers and public defender and district attorney offices throughout our state, so we are acutely aware of the challenges these offices have with regard to hiring and retaining lawyers.

ADKT 6011 recognizes and addresses this pipeline issue and the related issue of the need to provide legal assistance to indigent Nevada citizens by allowing law school graduates to work with qualified employers (i.e., legal aid providers and public defender and district attorney offices in Nevada's rural counties) prior to obtaining a license to practice law. Therefore, we support the adoption of the Petition and the Amendment to Petition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Dawn Nielsen

Director of Externships

Nikki Harris

Nekk Hai

Assistant Dean of Career Development

23-31091