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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

**DAVID MORGAN and
TERRI JO NEFF,**

Petitioners,

v.

HON. TIMOTHY B. DICKERSON,
Judge of the Superior Court of the State
of Arizona, in and for the County of
Cochise,

Respondent.

No. _____

Cochise County Superior Court
No. CR2017-00516

**PETITION FOR EXPEDITED
CONSIDERATION OF
PETITIONER'S SPECIAL
ACTION**

David Morgan and Terri Jo Neff (“Petitioners”) are journalists covering a historic criminal murder trial in Cochise County via telephonic access. Pursuant to Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure for Special Actions, Petitioners may bring a special action before the Arizona Supreme Court, and per Rule 7(d) for cause shown the Court “may waive or order acceleration of any or all of” the special action

procedures. Petitioners request the court consider their special action petition on an expedited basis because part of the specific relief requested can only be achieved before the conclusion of the criminal trial and the legal questions of court access posed by Petitioners' action touch issues of statewide importance during the health crisis.

On September 14, 2020, Petitioners filed a motion to intervene in Cochise County Superior Court for the limited purpose to clarify press access concerns relating to the high-profile criminal murder trial of Roger Wilson that has been ongoing for the last three years. Petitioners were denied in-person access to the Wilson trial due to an interpretation of new court policies regarding the COVID-19 health emergency established by Administrative Order 2020-143. Petitioners have been prevented from learning the names of potential jurors during the *voir dire* examination Wilson trial, have faced numerous telephonic access hurdles, and are therefore unable to perform an essential public oversight role in the judicial process. The Wilson trial is expected to commence final jury deliberations and deliver the verdict later this week. Petitioners request access to the names of the empaneled jury members once the trial is completed.

Given the statewide importance of clarifying the public's access under Administrative Order 2020-143 and the tight timeline in the Wilson criminal murder trial, Petitioners request an expedited hearing of the special action petition.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gregg P. Leslie

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