IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:	)	
	)	
EXTENSION OF COURT STAFF INTERPRETER CREDENTIALING DEADLINE	)	Administrative Order No. 2020-49 (Affecting Administrative Order Nos. 2016-02 and 2019-38)

Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2016-02 established the Arizona Court Interpreter Credentialing Program and required staff interpreters to become credentialed at the Tier 3 or 4 level by June 30, 2019. Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2019-38, staff interpreters hired before July 1, 2017 who had earned the Tier 1 or Tier 2 credential and who sat for the May/June 2019 Oral Court Interpreter Exams were granted an extension of the credentialing deadline to June 30, 2020.

The Administrative Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts has requested permission to cancel the April 2020 Oral Court Interpreter Exams to help prevent and control the spread of the COVID-19 virus. An extension of the staff credentialing deadline is justified given the current circumstances.

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

IT IS ORDERED granting an extension to the staff interpreter credentialing deadline, as follows:

1. Court employees who provide interpreting services and who qualified for an extension to become credentialed at the Tier 3 or Tier 4 level under Administrative Order 2019-38 shall have the deadline extended through March 1, 2021.

2. An extension through March 1, 2021 shall also be granted for staff interpreters hired on or after July 1, 2017 who had 24 months from their date of hire to earn the Tier 3 credential, and for whom the April 2020 exams represented the final opportunity to test and earn the required credential.

3. Court employees who did not qualify for an extension under Administrative Order 2019-38 shall not be granted an extension.

4. Courts shall not continue utilizing interpreter services by court employees who do not qualify for an extension and who do not earn a Tier 3 or Tier 4 Credential by March 1, 2021.

5. Courts may continue utilizing interpreter services by court employees who qualify for an extension through the date of the extension while the employee(s) continue to work on earning a Tier 3 or Tier 4 Credential.

6. All other provisions of Administrative Order Nos. 2016-02 and 2019-38 shall remain in effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED granting the Administrative Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts authority to grant additional extensions of time for the staff credentialing deadline should circumstances so warrant.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2020.

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ROBERT BRUTINEL
Chief Justice