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NNABA MEMBERSHIP ADVISORY ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

The National Native American Bar Association ("NNABA") invites our members and colleagues to contribute to the discourse and record regarding pending amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

As you may be aware, the Judicial Conference of the United States' Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure (the "Committee") released a preliminary draft of proposed amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (the "Rules") on August 14, 2013. The Committee is the body charged with overseeing the development of the Rules, and has proposed amendments to Rules 1, 4, 16, 26, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36 and 37. Subject to U.S. Supreme Court approval, the proposed amendments will become effective on December 1, 2015. Additionally, Congress can make changes to the proposed amendments through legislation.

NNABA believes that these amendments will have a profound impact on federal court litigation in the United States. These amendments represent a significant change in the way that discovery will be handled. Proponents of the amendments argue that the costs associated with civil discovery have grown exponentially over the past decade. In their view, these increased costs have imposed significant burdens on both litigants and the judiciary, complicating the system and resulting in a denial of justice to some litigants. On the other hand, critics of the amendments argue that the changes to the discovery rules will have an especially profound effect on the most vulnerable in society denying them access to justice.

Public comments on the proposed amendments are due on February 15, 2014. There are over 350 comments as of mid-December which can be reviewed at:
<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketBrowser;rpp=25;po=0;D=USC-RULES-CV-2013-0002;dct=PS>

Interested parties may submit comments to the proposed amendments online at:
<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=USC-RULES-CV-2013-0002>

The Advisory Committee will hold three public hearings on the proposed changes. The hearings have been scheduled for:

Washington, D.C., on November 7, 2013
Phoenix, Arizona, on January 9, 2014
Dallas, Texas, on February 7, 2014

We encourage all interested individuals who wish to be heard, to consider doing so. If

you are interested in testifying you must inform the Committee thirty (30) days in advance of the scheduled hearing date.

Finally, for your convenience, a summary of the rules can be found by clicking [here](#).

Sincerely,
Mary Smith
NNABA President, 2013-2015

For more information contact 480-727-0420 or visit www.nativeamericanbar.org.



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