

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA**

IN RE: REPORT AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
WORKGROUP ON IMPROVED  
RESOLUTION OF CIVIL CASES

Case No. SC22-122

\_\_\_\_\_/

**FLORIDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S**  
**MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE COMMENTS**

The Florida Chamber of Commerce (the “Florida Chamber”) respectfully moves this Court grant an additional 30-day extension of time in which to file comments in the above-styled case. In support, the Florida Chamber states as follows:

1. Starting in 2019, the Workgroup on Improved Resolution of Civil Cases (the “Workgroup”) undertook a lengthy analysis of Florida state court procedures and recently issued a Final Report recommending amendments to Florida’s Rules of Court Procedure and changes in practices that would improve the resolution of civil cases.

2. On February 2, 2022, this Court acknowledged receipt of the Workgroup’s Final Report and subsequently published a notice regarding the Final Report in the Florida Bar News, requesting all interested parties to comment by March 31, 2022.

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3. The Civil Procedure Rules Committee of The Florida Bar and the Florida Association of Court Clerks, Inc. d/b/a Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers requested an extension of time to review the Workgroup's lengthy report. On March 16, 2022, this Court granted an extension of time to permit all interested parties until May 2, 2022, to file comments on the Workgroup's Final Report.

4. Nearly all of the above-described events occurred during this year's tumultuous legislative session. In addition to the passage of a \$112 billion state budget, lawmakers considered and debated legislation covering a wide variety of issues, affecting Floridians and Florida's business community. The Florida Legislature also was faced with a constitutional directive to redraw state and congressional district maps, a task which is still ongoing.

5. Florida's business community was substantially involved in the 2022 legislative session, and that involvement has continued, as many lawmakers have publicly expressed the desire to hold additional special sessions on other issues that will impact Florida's private businesses, such as property insurance and condominium regulation, in the near future. The Florida Chamber was unaware

until recently of the Workgroup's Final Report and this Court's request for comments.

6. The Workgroup's Final Report is quite substantial, consisting of hundreds of pages including appendices, and recommending changes to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, Small Claims Rules, and the Rules of Mediation.

7. Many of these potential rule changes could dramatically impact Florida's business community, particularly those changes that impact discovery obligations and alter current litigation practices in Florida's civil courts. The Florida Chamber is concerned that some of the proposed changes within the Final Report may in fact increase the already exorbitant cost of litigation.

8. The Florida Chamber wishes to provide this Court with thoughtful and contemplative commentary, and as such, respectfully requests an additional 30-day extension of time in which to fully review and analyze the proposed changes recommended by the Workgroup's Final Report. The Florida Chamber presently anticipates that it would not be able to provide this Court with thoughtful commentary by the current May 2, 2022, deadline.

9. The Florida Chamber advocates for Florida's private businesses and is focused on encouraging a business-friendly climate that allows Florida's job creators to add private-sector jobs and contribute to Florida's economy. Such a substantive reworking of many of the Florida courts' rules of procedure will undoubtedly impact Florida's businesses, and the Florida Chamber seeks to provide this Court with commentary reflecting any anticipated positive and negative impacts, commentary that is likely to be substantially different from other comments this Court may expect to receive from Bar committees or other public entities.

10. The Florida Chamber makes this request in good faith and not for the purposes of delay. Moreover, given that the Workgroup's mission began in 2019, the Florida Chamber respectfully suggests that an additional 30-day extension would not cause this Court or the Florida judicial system any inordinate delay. To the contrary, a second 30-day extension may also cause this Court to receive thoughtful commentary from additional interested persons who also might not otherwise be able to make this Court's May 2, 2022, deadline, and will undoubtedly allow those interested persons who are currently crafting comments additional time to more thoughtfully

consider the proposed changes to Florida's Rules of Court Procedure and their recommendations to this Court.

**WHEREFORE**, the Florida Chamber respectfully requests this Court to grant an additional 30-day extension of time, up to and including June 1, 2022, for all interested parties to file comments to the Workgroup's Final Report and proposed amendments to Florida's Rules of Court Procedure.

Respectfully submitted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022,

/s/ Jason Gonzalez

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AND COMPLIANCE**

I hereby certify that this computer-generated motion is prepared in Bookman Old Style 14-point font and complies with the font requirements of Florida Appellate Rule of Procedure 9.045(b). In addition, a true copy of the foregoing has been e-filed with the Florida Supreme Court in the above-captioned case this 15th day of April, 2022.

/s/ Jason Gonzalez  
Jason Gonzalez