

Arizona Supreme Court
Criminal Post Conviction

CR-24-0196-PC

STATE OF ARIZONA v TRENT CHRISTOPHER BENSON

Appellate Case Information

Case Filed: 1-Aug-2024
Case Closed:

Dept/Composition

Side 1. STATE OF ARIZONA, Plaintiff

(Litigant Group) STATE OF ARIZONA

- State of Arizona, Petitioner

Attorneys for: Plaintiff

Kristin K Mayes, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 22584)
Jason Lewis, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 32461)
Kevin M Morrow, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 34697)

Side 2. TRENT CHRISTOPHER BENSON, Defendant

(Litigant Group) TRENT CHRISTOPHER BENSON

- Trent Christopher Benson, Respondent

Attorneys for: Defendant

Kirsty Davis, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 33244)
John L Saccoman, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 13397)

Side 3. MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, Amicus Curiae

(Litigant Group) MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

- Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Attorneys for: Amicus Curiae

Rachel H Mitchell, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 14560)
Julie A Done, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 24370)

CASE STATUS

Aug 1, 2024.....Pending

PREDECESSOR CASE (S)	Cause/Charge/Class	Judgment/Sentence	Judge, Role <Comments>	Trial	Dispo
MAR	CR2008-130121-001		Kristin Culbertson, Judge on PC		

33 PROCEEDING ENTRIES

1.	1-Aug-2024	FILED: State of Arizona's Petition for Review; Certificate of Service; Certificate of Compliance; Appendix (Plaintiff/Petitioner State)			
2.	23-Aug-2024	FILED: Unopposed Motion for Procedural Order to Extend Time to File Response to Petition for Review; Certificate of Service (Defendant/Respondent Benson)			
3.	3-Sep-2024	An "Unopposed Motion for Procedural Order to Extend Time to File Response to Petition for Review" (Defendant/Respondent Benson) having been filed on August 23, 2024, IT IS ORDERED granting a first extension of time to file the response to petition for review on or before November 4, 2024. No further extensions of time shall be granted absent extraordinary circumstances. (Tracie K. Lindeman Clerk)			
4.	4-Nov-2024	FILED: Opposition to Petition for Review; Certificate of Service; Certificate of Compliance (Defendant/Respondent Benson)			
5.	12-Nov-2024	FILED: Unopposed Motion for Procedural Order (Extension for Reply); Certificate of Service (Plaintiff/Petitioner State)			
6.	14-Nov-2024	An "Unopposed Motion for Procedural Order (Extension for Reply)" (Plaintiff/Petitioner State of Arizona) having been filed on November 12, 2024, IT IS ORDERED granting a first extension of time to file a reply brief on or before December 16, 2024. No further extensions of time shall be granted absent extraordinary circumstances. (Tracie K. Lindeman, Clerk)			
7.	25-Nov-2024	FILED: Amicus Curiae Brief of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office; Certificate of Service; Certificate of Compliance (Amicus Curiae MCAO)			
8.	25-Nov-2024	FILED: Authorization for Amicus Curiae Brief of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (Amicus Curiae MCAO)			
9.	16-Dec-2024	FILED: The State of Arizona's Reply to Response to Petition for Review; Certificate of Service (Plaintiff/Petitioner State)			
10.	26-Dec-2024	FILED: Mr. Bensons Response to Brief of Amicus Curiae; Certificate of Service; Certificate of Compliance (Defendant/Respondent Benson)			
11.	17-Mar-2025	FILED: Motion for Procedural Order to Extend Word Limit; Certificate of Service (Defendant/Respondent Benson)			

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12. 17-Mar-2025 FILED: [STRICKEN Per ASC Order Filed 3/19/25] Cross Petition for Review Oral Argument Requested; Certificate of Service; Certificate of Attempted Compliance (Defendant/Respondent Benson)
13. 17-Mar-2025 FILED: Appendices 1-28; Certificate of Service; Appendices 29-57; Appendices 58-78 (Defendant/Respondent Benson)
14. 17-Mar-2025 FILED: Appendices 79-95; Certificate of Service; Appendices 96-109; Appendices 110-118 (Defendant/Respondent Benson)
15. 17-Mar-2025 FILED: Motion to Seal Appendices (Defendant/Respondent Benson)
16. 17-Mar-2025 FILED: [SEALED Per ASC Order Filed 3/19/25] Sealed Appendices to Cross-Petition for Review (Defendant/Respondent Benson)
17. 19-Mar-2025 Defendant/Respondent Benson having filed a "Motion to Seal Appendices," and upon consideration,

IT IS ORDERED granting the motion.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of this Court shall take appropriate steps to seal Appendices 31 and 34 in this matter.
(Tracie K. Lindeman Clerk)
18. 19-Mar-2025 On March 17, 2025, Trent Christopher Benson filed a Motion for Procedural Order to Extend Word Limit, along with a 38,673 word count cross-petition for review. "A motion for a procedural order must include a statement by the moving party of whether the other parties consent to, or object to, the entry of the order that is sought; or must explain the reasons why the moving party was unable to contact the other parties before filing the motion." See Ariz. R. Crim. P. 31.6(e) and ARCAP 6(b). The instant motion does not provide this required information.

Nonetheless, the Court has considered the Motion for Procedural Order to Extend Word Limit and,

IT IS ORDERED denying Benson's Motion for Procedural Order to Extend Word Limit that requests to exceed the 12,000 word count limit by 26,673 words. See Ariz. R. Crim. P. 32.16(c)(1).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Benson's Cross-Petition for Review filed on March 17, 2025 is stricken.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Benson may file a cross-petition for review that does not exceed 28,000 words on or before April 18, 2025. (Hon. Kathryn H. King)
Hon. Kathryn H. King

FURTHER On March 17, 2025, Trent Christopher Benson filed a Motion for Procedural Order to Extend Word Limit, along with a 38,673 word count cross-petition for review. "A motion for a procedural order must include a statement by the moving party of whether the other parties consent to, or object to, the entry of the order that is sought; or must explain the reasons why the moving party was unable to contact the other parties before filing the motion." See Ariz. R. Crim. P. 31.6(e) and ARCAP 6(b). The instant motion does not provide this required information.

Nonetheless, the Court has considered the Motion for Procedural Order to Extend Word Limit and,

IT IS ORDERED denying Benson's Motion for Procedural Order to Extend Word Limit that requests to exceed the 12,000 word count limit by 26,673 words. See Ariz. R. Crim. P. 32.16(c)(1).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Benson's Cross-Petition for Review filed on March 17, 2025 is stricken.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Benson may file a cross-petition for review that does not exceed 28,000 words on or before April 18, 2025. (Hon. Kathryn H. King)
19. 18-Apr-2025 FILED: Cross-Petition for Review; Certificate of Service; Certificate of Compliance (Defendant/Respondent Benson)
20. 13-May-2025 FILED: Unopposed Motion for Procedural Order (Extension for Cross-Response Brief); Certificate of Service (Plaintiff/Petitioner State)
21. 14-May-2025 An "Unopposed Motion for Procedural Order (Extension for Cross-Response Brief)" (Plaintiff/Petitioner State of Arizona) having been filed on May 13, 2025,

IT IS ORDERED granting a first extension of time to file the cross-response to cross-petition for review on or before July 21, 2025. No further extensions of time shall be granted absent extraordinary circumstances. (Tracie K. Lindeman Clerk)
22. 26-Jun-2025 SENT: Letter in Response to Pro Se Request from Represented Client (Trent C. Benson)
23. 16-Jul-2025 FILED: (STRICKEN by Order Filed 10/8/2025) The State of Arizona's Response to Benson's Cross-Petition for Review; Certificate of Service; Certificate of Compliance (Plaintiff/Petitioner State)
24. 22-Jul-2025 FILED: Motion for Procedural Order for Extension of Time to File Reply to Response to Petition for Review; Certificate of Service (Defendant/Respondent Benson)

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25. 24-Jul-2025 A "Motion for Procedural Order for Extension of Time to File Reply to Response to Petition for Review" (Defendant/Respondent Benson) having been filed on July 22, 2025,

IT IS ORDERED granting a first extension of time to file the reply to response to petition for review on or before October 27, 2025. No further extensions of time shall be granted absent extraordinary circumstances. (Aaron C. Nash Clerk)
26. 6-Oct-2025 FILED: Unopposed Motion to Amend the State's Cross-Response; Certificate of Service (Plaintiff/Petitioner State)
27. 6-Oct-2025 FILED: The State of Arizona's Amended Response to Benson's Cross-Petition for Review; Certificate of Service; Certificate of Compliance (Plaintiff/Petitioner State)
28. 8-Oct-2025 On October 6, 2025, Cross-Respondent State of Arizona filed an Unopposed Motion to Amend the State's Cross-Response with The State of Arizona's Amended Response to Benson's Cross-Petition for Review. Under Ariz. R. Crim. P. 31.6(e) and ARCAP 6(b), the caption of a motion for procedural order must include the words, "Motion for Procedural Order." The State's Unopposed Motion to Amend the State's Cross-Response is non-compliant in this respect. Nonetheless, the motion is accepted as filed.

Upon consideration,

IT IS ORDERED that the State's Unopposed Motion to Amend the State's Cross-Response is granted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that The State of Arizona's Response to Benson's Cross-Petition for Review filed on July 16, 2025, is stricken.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that The State of Arizona's Amended Response to Benson's Cross-Petition for Review filed on October 6, 2025, is accepted as filed that date.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Cross-Petitioner's reply to cross-response to cross-petition for review remains due on or before October 27, 2025, pursuant to the Court July 24, 2025 order. (Hon. Clint Bolick)
29. 21-Oct-2025 FILED: Motion for Procedural Order for Extension of Time to File Reply to Response to Petition for Review; Certificate of Service (Defendant/Respondent Benson)
30. 23-Oct-2025 A "Motion for Procedural Order for Extension of Time to File Reply to Response to Petition for Review" (Defendant/Respondent Benson) having been filed on October 21, 2025,

IT IS ORDERED granting an extension of time to file the reply to response to petition for review on or before November 26, 2025. No further extensions of time will be granted absent extraordinary circumstances. (Aaron C. Nash Clerk)
31. 26-Nov-2025 FILED: Unopposed Motion for Procedural Order to Exceed the Word Limit; Certificate of Service (Appellant)
32. 26-Nov-2025 FILED: Reply to Response to Cross-Petition for Review; Certificate of Service; Certificate of Compliance (Appellant)
33. 3-Dec-2025 An "Unopposed Motion for Procedural Order to Exceed the Word Limit" (Defendant/Respondent Benson) having been filed with a 13,106 word count reply to response to cross-petition for review, and the Clerk of the Court having been authorized by the Supreme Court to enter orders granting or denying requests for extended word count,

IT IS ORDERED granting Defendant/Respondent Benson's motion to exceed the word count limit on the reply to response to cross-petition for review by 10,106 words for a total of 13,106 words. The reply to response to cross-petition for review will be file-dated November 26, 2025. (Aaron C. Nash, Clerk)