



July 21, 2023

Via Email: Comments.Mailbox@njcourts.gov
Glenn A. Grant, Administrative Director of the Court
Hughes Justice Complex
P.O. Box 037
Trenton NJ 08625-0037

Re: Comments on Recommendations of Judiciary Working Group on Elder Justice

Dear Administrative Director Grant:

I am writing respectfully on behalf of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys ("NJNAELA"), in response to the Recommendations of the Judiciary Working Group on Elder Justice published for comments.

NJNAELA thanks the New Jersey Supreme Court, the New Jersey Supreme Court's Judiciary Working Group on Elder Justice ("Judiciary Working Group") and the Administrative Office of the Courts ("AOC"), on the Judiciary Working Group's thoughtful Recommendations.

NJNAELA largely supports the Recommendations, however we offer the following additional recommendations for consideration:

1. We recommend that the AOC promulgate a *pro se* restoration to capacity filing packet similar to what is available on the Judiciary website for filing guardianship matters. This form packet for restoration matters should include: the Order to Show Cause, Verified Complaint, Certification of Physician or Psychologist, and form of Judgment. Additionally, as with guardianship matters, we would like to also see a manual for court appointed counsel/guardians *ad litem* for participation in guardianship termination matters.
2. We would further encourage the AOC to promulgate a form for this packet to waive the filing fee for *pro se* litigants who may not have access to their funds after having been adjudicated incapacitated to handle their finances.

As the Judicial Working Group's Recommendations are implemented, we look forward to further opportunities to share our experiences as attorneys practicing on all sides in guardianship matters.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth L. Barnhard".

Beth L. Barnhard
President, NJNAELA