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From: E. Drew Britcher <drew@blrlaw.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 5:47 PM
To: Comments Mailbox
Subject: [External]RE: Virtual or Remote Proceedings

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Allow me to add one more comment:

All Arbitration proceedings, motions and most conferences should be by Zoom Teams or similar platforms, not by telephone.

From: E. Drew Britcher
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 6:44 PM
To: comments.mailbox@njcourts.gov
Subject: Virtual or Remote Proceedings

I support fully the courts continuing to handle Conferences, Motions and Trial Calls remotely. As to trial calls, I believe they should be held the week before any actual trial proceeding or jury selection. I support continuing to conduct jury selections remotely, but believe that all trials should be live in the courtroom, unless all parties affirmatively agree to a virtual trial.

I strongly believe that the court should encourage the continued use of virtual platforms to conduct depositions and should issue an interim rule regarding how they are to be conducted, particularly when the witness and counsel choose to be in one location.

I believe that the courts should advise counsel handling more complex matters that involve multiple parties, multiple experts and the like of when the court will return to those matters getting tried and should provide at least one months' notice of then that will occur. I recently was advised that a complex product liability case involving multiple engineering and medical experts was going to be the subject of a virtual jury selection and live trial today, with about two weeks' notice. Fortunately, the matter settled.

I also believe that in order to get jurors to serve that all Jurors should be required to be fully vaccinated and provide proof of the same in order to give the Jurors who are complying with public health requests to be able to feel as safe as possible to agree to appear live in the courtroom.

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