

**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
APPELLATE DIVISION**

**HANY A. MAWLA  
JUDGE**



**HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX  
25 MARKET STREET  
P.O. BOX 977  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0977  
(609) 815-2900 ext. 51785**

July 21, 2023

Glenn A. Grant  
Administrative Director of the Courts  
Attention: Comments on Recommendations of the Judiciary Working Group  
on Elder Justice  
Hughes Justice Complex  
P.O. Box 037  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0037  
via email [Comments.Mailbox@njcourts.gov](mailto:Comments.Mailbox@njcourts.gov)

Re: Recommendations of the Judiciary Working Group on Elder Justice

Dear Administrative Director Grant:

The Supreme Court Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement (“SCC-DI&CE”), in its advisory role to the Supreme Court of New Jersey, writes in full support of the recommendations of the Working Group on Elder Justice set forth in the June 14, 2023 Notice to the Bar.

The recommendations respond to the unique needs of people who are particularly vulnerable and often face barriers to the legal system. Ensuring access to justice for people who are aging is an essential aspect of procedural fairness and ensuring an open door to the courts. The recommendations align with the Judiciary’s access and fairness principles and DI&CE's mission because they aim to realize equal access to justice, promote procedural fairness, and ensure the delivery of quality service.

Accounting for geographic, economic, and cultural differences is also essential to ensure the informational resources reach the broadest audience possible and in formats that are most usable. For example, implementation of Recommendations 1, 8, and 9, in particular, can be optimized by ensuring the

production of culturally-informed materials, which speak to the great diversity that exists in New Jersey. Similarly, the implementation of Recommendations 2 and 13 can be optimized by ensuring that diversity of identity and lived experience is reflected in presenting the needs and rights of elders in our community. These five recommendations, in particular, offer a unique opportunity to center cultural diversity of communities in information materials, resources, and trainings, alongside other primary aspects of identity and lived experience of individuals.

The SCC-DI&CE thanks the Court for the opportunity to comment on the recommendations presented by the Judiciary Working Group on Elder Justice. The Court's continuing leadership in furthering the elimination of bias in the practice of law and administration of justice remains a national model.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hany A. Mawla', with a large, stylized initial 'H' and 'M'.

Hany A. Mawla, J.A.D.  
Chair, Supreme Court Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Community  
Engagement

cc: Hon. Morris G. Smith, J.A.D., Vice-Chair, SCC DI&CE  
Steven D. Bonville, Chief of Staff  
Lisa R. Burke, Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement  
Program Officer and Committee Staff  
Issac Green, Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement Program  
Coordinator and Committee Co-Staff