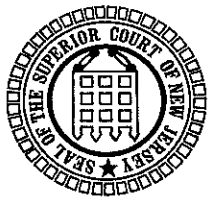
#024

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

SOMERSET, HUNTERDON AND WARREN COUNTIES
VICINAGE 13

Hany A. Mawla
Presiding Judge – Family Part



Somerset County Historic Court House
20 North Bridge Street
P.O. Box 3000
Somerville, New Jersey 08876

(908) 231-7647

April 21, 2016

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Rules Comments
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
P.O. Box 037
Trenton, New Jersey, 08625-0037

Re: Report and Recommendations of the Supreme Court Civil Practice Committee

Dear Judge Grant:

The Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns (SCCMC) reviewed the 2014-2016 report of the Supreme Court Civil Practice Committee and would like to share its feedback regarding the proposed amendments to R. 4:72 – Actions for Name Change.

The SCCMC recognizes the fundamentally important role that name changes play in the legal system and underscores the need to preserve and ensure the integrity of the name change process and provide litigants access to the process in the least burdensome way possible and appropriate. The SCCMC believes that the proposed amendments to R. 4:72 achieve both of these important goals. The Committee does not see the necessity for the imposition of any further protective measures at this time and urges caution that no further requirements be added via rule or statute that would unduly burden the very litigants who seek relief through a name change action. To do so would run contrary to the Court's ongoing access and fairness initiative.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Hany A. Mawla, P.J.F.P.

HM:sp

cc: SCCMC Executive Board
Steven D. Bonville, Chief of Staff
Yolande P. Marlow, Minority Concerns Program Manager
Lisa R. Burke, Minority Concerns Program Coordinator