

GLENN A. GRANT

Administrative Director of the Courts

Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex • P.O. Box 037 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0037 njcourts.gov • Tel: 609-376-3000 • Fax: 609-376-3002

April 25, 2022

Hon. Steven V. Oroho Senate Republican Office New Jersey State House P.O. Box 099 Trenton, NJ 08625

RE: Updates to the Recommendations of the Judicial Conference Committee

Dear Senator Oroho:

It was a pleasure speaking with you last week, and I appreciated the opportunity to discuss your valuable contribution to the Committee formed by Chief Justice Rabner to study issues surrounding the jury selection process in New Jersey. As you are aware, this Committee stemmed from the Supreme Court's decision in <u>State v. Andujar</u>, which called for a Judicial Conference on Jury Selection to recommend improvements designed to broaden participation and representativeness and reduce the effects of purposeful discrimination and bias. That Conference met in November.

The Chief Justice and I wanted to specifically acknowledge and highlight your specific contributions to the recent work of the Subcommittee on Systemic Barriers to Jury Service. As a result of your participation, the final and official Report of the full Committee, which will soon be published for public comment, will not recommend that the Legislature study whether non-United States citizens should be considered eligible for jury service. Rather, the Chief Justice may advance that issue separately at some point in the future, after further outreach to your office.









Similarly, on the issue of the potential eligibility of individuals previously convicted of a felony to sit as jurors, the recommendation of the Report will reflect that the Legislature may wish to consider expanding juror eligibility only to individuals who are no longer subject to custody or supervision, with the understanding that someone who remains subject to supervision for life would never become eligible to serve as a juror.

As you indicated in your letter to the Subcommittee, jury service is one of the most significant civic responsibilities a citizen has and requires an understanding of and commitment to the values that define the American justice system. We fully agree and appreciate your leadership on the above issues and your influence on the final Report of the full Committee.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this important topic and thank you again for your efforts.

Very truly yours,

Glenn A. Grant Administrative Director

Cc: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner