

NOTICE TO THE BAR

REPORT OF THE SUPREME COURT WORKING GROUP ON BUSINESS LITIGATION – PUBLICATION FOR COMMENT

This notice publishes for comment the [Report of the Supreme Court Working Group on Business Litigation](http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/reports2014/index.htm). This report also will be available on the Judiciary's internet web site at <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/reports2014/index.htm>.

The Working Group, formed by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner and chaired by Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne, was charged with the task of identifying and assessing the court needs of the business community, reviewing the Judiciary's current practices, and recommending steps to address legitimate concerns and streamline the process for handling complex commercial litigation. In its report, the Working Group recommends no changes to the existing court structure, but rather a statewide expansion of the existing Bergen/Essex Complex Commercial Pilot Program, which allows the Assignment Judge to designate a judge with expertise or an interest in developing expertise in business or commercial litigation to oversee the resolution of all commercial matters from beginning to end and which provides for disposition time goals. That proposed statewide program (1) would include a protocol to identify each case that qualifies as commercial litigation, with a \$200,000 threshold value for participation in the program; (2) would encourage but not require mediation of those cases; and (3) would encourage the program judges to write and publish written opinions addressing novel issues or issues of particular interest.

Please send any comments on the Working Group's recommendations in writing by **Friday, June 6, 2014** to:

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Attn: Comments on Business Litigation Report
Hughes Justice Complex; P.O. Box 037
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037

Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to: Comments.Mailbox@judiciary.state.nj.us.

The Supreme Court will not consider comments submitted anonymously. Those submitting comments by mail should include their name and address. Comments submitted in response to this notice may be subject to public disclosure after the Court has acted on the Working Group's report.

/s/ Glenn A. Grant

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: April 10, 2014