

NOTICE TO THE BAR

Training Video for Attorneys Assigned to Handle Municipal Court Appeal Cases

The Judiciary has developed a training video to assist attorneys who are assigned pro bono cases under Madden v. Delran, 126 N.J. 591 (1992), to represent indigent defendants in municipal court appeals, which are handled in Superior Court. The video entitled “Pro Bono Assignment Municipal Appeal: What Happens Now?” may be viewed at <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/probono/index.htm> or by going to njcourts.com and clicking on the YouTube icon on the right side of the page.

The video was developed to assist assigned counsel who may not be fully familiar with this particular case type. It provides guidance on how and when to set up an initial meeting with a client, the documents that the attorney should expect to receive through discovery, what to expect at the court hearing, how to handle a guilty plea and how to proceed if the defendant requests a trial. Assigned counsel will be made aware of the video at the time of assignment. Private defense counsel or others involved in litigating a municipal court appeal also may find the video helpful

The 2011 training manual – “Defending a Municipal Court Appeal; A Primer for Assigned Counsel” – is a companion to the video. The training manual and other information about Madden and mandatory pro bono assignments may be found on the Judiciary’s website at <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/probono/index.htm>. The manual gives an in-depth look at the procedures and law relating to municipal court appeals, whereas the video provides a broad overview of the process. The video is meant to supplement, rather than replace the training manual.

The municipal court appeals video is the second in a series of three videos designed to assist attorneys who are assigned mandatory pro bono cases under Madden. The first video in the series instructed attorneys on how to represent defendants in domestic violence contempt cases. That video may be viewed on the Judiciary InfoNet website at <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/probono/index.htm> or by clicking the YouTube icon on the njcourts.com home page. Production of a third video to help attorneys who are assigned parole revocation pro bono cases is currently underway.

/s/ Glenn A. Grant

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