

NOTICE TO THE BAR

MUNICIPAL COURTS – REPORT OF THE SUPREME COURT WORKING GROUP ON THE MUNICIPAL COURTS – PUBLICATION FOR COMMENT

The Supreme Court invites written comments on the July 8, 2019 Report of the Supreme Court Working Group on the Municipal Courts. The report is published with this notice and also is available on the Judiciary's internet website at <https://www.njcourts.gov/courts/supreme/reports.html>.

Please send any comments on the Working Group's report in writing by October 1, 2019 to:

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Comments – Municipal Courts Working Group Report
Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 037
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037

Comments may also be submitted by email to: Comments.Mailbox@njcourts.gov.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner established the Working Group to consider and develop certain recommendations included in the June 2018 report of the Supreme Court Committee on Municipal Court Operations, Fines, and Fees (Supreme Court Committee). Chaired by Acting Administrative Director of the Courts Glenn A. Grant, the 38-member Working Group brought together representatives from all three branches of government (1) to facilitate implementation of certain recommendations of the Supreme Court Committee, specifically those recommendations that required Legislative and Executive collaboration, and to propose methods of implementation; and (2) to explore and consider any other reforms identified by the Working Group that would lead to further improving the Municipal Courts in New Jersey.

The Working Group's report sets forth 17 recommendations that represent the latest contribution to the Judiciary's ongoing efforts to engage in critical self-analysis of the Municipal Court system and to recommend ways to ensure that all aspects of that system operate in a manner consistent with the Judiciary's core values of independence, integrity, fairness, and quality service. The Working Group's recommendations focus on:

- Decoupling of sentencing practices from a municipality's need for revenue in order to enhance equal access and fairness (Recommendations 1-10);
- Modifying the appointment and reappointment process for Municipal Court judges to enhance judicial independence (Recommendations 11-15); and
- Consolidating and regionalizing Municipal Courts to improve the efficiency of

court operations and the delivery of justice (Recommendations 16-17).

The Supreme Court will not consider comments submitted anonymously. Thus, those submitting comments by mail should include their name and address and those submitting comments by email should include their name and email address. Comments submitted in response to this notice are subject to public disclosure.

Glenn A. Grant
by *SGS*

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

Dated: August 12, 2019