NOTICE TO THE BAR

CRIMINAL -- POST-ARRAIGNMENT CONFERENCES AND CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS -- PREFERRED IN-PERSON FORMAT

This notice clarifies provisions of the Supreme Court's <u>November 18</u>, <u>2021 Order</u> ("Future of Court Operations") regarding the preferred format for certain criminal proceedings.

Consistent with both the ongoing prioritization of criminal matters involving detained defendants and the focus on expeditious dispositions for released defendants, judges are continuing to conduct many criminal proceedings in person. In addition to the specific examples of matters to be conducted in person listed in paragraph 3 of that November 18, 2021 Order (post-indictment arraignments; pretrial conferences at which the court intends to set a trial date pursuant to Rule 3:9-1(f); and motions to revoke pretrial release), judges should also continue to schedule pre-indictment and post-arraignment conferences in person when appropriate. Attorneys and parties should anticipate that such matters -- and also other criminal proceedings when appropriate -- will be conducted in person rather than virtually.

As provided in the Court's Order, judges may permit one or more participants to participate virtually in any court event based on individual facts and circumstances, including a temporary inability to appear in person based on COVID-19-related considerations.

Questions on this notice may be directed to the Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts.

Glenn A. Grant

Administrative Director of the Courts

Date: June 24, 2022