NOTICE TO THE BAR

CIVIL -- CONCLUSION OF TEMPORARY RELAXATION OF RULE 4:25-4 ("DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL")

The Supreme Court in the attached October 24, 2022 Order reinstates all provisions of Rule 4:25-4 ("Designation of Trial Counsel") effective January 1, 2023. The Court had suspended the provisions of the rule by Order dated June 15, 2021.

Questions may be directed to Assistant Director for Civil Practice Taironda E. Phoenix at <u>Taironda.Phoenix@njcourts.gov</u> or (609) 815-2900 x54900.

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Glenn A. Grant Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: October 25, 2022

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

By Order dated <u>June 15, 2021</u>, the Court relaxed the provisions of Rule 4:25-4 ("Designation of Trial Counsel"), including to suspend the presumptive expiration of the designation of trial counsel in Track III medical malpractice cases.

The Court took that action based on the suspension of most civil jury trials because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the difficulty of conducting complex civil jury trials in a virtual format.

Civil jury trials have now resumed and are ongoing in an in-person format statewide, rendering unnecessary the continued suspension of the designation of trial counsel provisions.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the Court's June 15, 2021 Order relaxing the provisions of Rule 4:25-4 is hereby rescinded effective January 1, 2023.

For the Court,

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Chief Justice

Dated: October 24, 2022