

#034

From: Donna Legband <dlegband@almfamilylaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 9:31 PM
To: Comments Mailbox
Subject: Proposed Rule change to R. 1:40-4

Dear Mr. Grant,

Please be advised that I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed change to R. 1:40-4. I have been serving as an economic mediator in several counties since the pilot program began in Somerset county many years ago. I have mediated thousands of cases and provided thousands of volunteer hours to the court system over the years in various court programs. The proposed rule change which would require us to file a lawsuit to collect unpaid fees from economic mediation would cause a severe burden on all of the volunteer mediators. Many of the volunteer mediators may withdraw from the program if the rule change is implemented. Moreover, it would only further burden a civil court system with more lawsuits. We already provide a tremendous service to the court by donating our time for economic mediation. The current system whereby the mediator can request the trial judge to enter an Order works very well and provides every litigant with the opportunity to appear before the judge to dispute any outstanding fee resulting from economic mediation. Again, I strongly oppose the proposed rule change and hope you take into consideration the above.

Very truly yours,

Donna Legband, Esq.
Altman, Legband & Mayrides
37 Tamarack Circle
Skillman, NJ 08558
Telephone: 908-359-4011