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April 25, 2018

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Rules Committee
Hughes Justice Complex
Trenton, NJ 08625-0037

Judge Grant:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the 2016-2018 Report of the Supreme Court Committee on Special Civil Part Practice. On behalf of Legal Services of New Jersey (“LSNJ”), we would specifically like to address Rule Amendments Proposed for Adoption, Section K, Proposed Amendments to Appendices XI-G (Warrant of Removal) and (Notice to Debtor)- Mandatory Translation. In addition to the Warrant of Removal and Notice to Debtor, LSNJ and the regional legal services programs which assist pro se litigants throughout the state, have found that limited English proficient (“LEP”) court users would also benefit from Spanish translations of additional forms in the Appendix of the Court Rules. Specifically, we urge the Committee to consider translation of the Consent to Enter Judgment for Possession (Tenant Vacates), Consent to Enter Judgment (Tenant Remains), Notice to Residential Tenants of Rights During Foreclosure, Execution Against Goods and Chattels, Notice of Application for Wage Execution, Wage Execution, Information and Subpoena and Written Questions, Notice of Motion for Order Enforcing Litigant’s Rights, Certification in Support of Motion for Order Enforcing Litigant’s Rights, Order to Enforce Litigant’s Rights, Certification in Support of Application for Arrest Warrant, Warrant for Arrest, Writ of Wage Execution, and the Writ of Execution which should

be subject to a similar process of approval as set forth in the proposed amendment. These documents are particularly critical in the housing and consumer context and are utilized by LEP litigants on a regular basis.

LSNJ regularly assists limited English proficient (“LEP”) court users who would benefit from translation of vital court documents. We support the judiciary’s ongoing efforts to provide an increasing number of translated materials into Spanish and other languages for the LEP population in this increasingly diverse state. According to the U.S. Department of Justice website, there are currently 598,155 Spanish LEP speakers in New Jersey out of a total LEP population of 1,034,428. The commitment to translating a wide array of documents is reflected in the AOC’s Language Access Plan created to ensure continued compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.¹ We commend the Honorable Jeffrey J. Waldman of the Atlantic/Cape May Minority Concerns Committee setting forth a proposal for translation of specific forms and the Special Civil Practice Committee’s unanimous endorsement of this proposal for the benefit of the Spanish-speaking LEP population in New Jersey.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Anisa Rahim, Special Counsel to the President
Linda Babecki, Co-Chief Counsel, Housing
Alice Kwong, Co-Chief Counsel, Housing

¹ See https://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/attorneys/assets/directives/dir_01_17.pdf