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# GUSTON & GUSTON, LLP

55 Harristown Road, Suite 106  
Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452

Phone: (201) 447-6660  
Fax: (201) 447-3831  
www.gustonlaw.com



**Herbert M. Guston** (NJ & NY)

**Debra E. Guston** (NJ & DC)  
Fellow, American Academy of Adoption Attorneys  
Fellow, American Academy of Assisted  
Reproductive Technology Attorneys

**Kevin D. Clark** (NJ)

**Of Counsel:**

**Linda J. Peterson** (NJ & NY)  
Accredited V.A. Attorney  
Concentrating in Elder Law

**K.D. Rothman** (NJ & NY)  
**Jennifer M. Mendelsohn** (NJ)

James J. Fay, Paralegal  
Johanna Nachtergaele, Paralegal  
Denise M. Zangoglia, Paralegal

Senders Email:  
deguston@gustonandguston.com

February 16, 2015

Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.  
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts  
Rule Comments  
Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 037  
Trenton NJ 08625-0037

Comments on Committee on Minority Concerns Report

Dear Judge Grant:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Committee on Minority Concerns Report. I am grateful to the AOC and the Committee for continuing and growing interest in LGBTQI Youth issues.

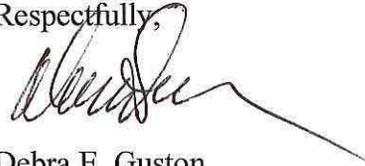
My first comment concerns Recommendation 15.03.2, which urges collection of racial and ethnic data by the Ombudsman Program. I would urge the Committee to consider additional collection of self-identifying data on sexual orientation and gender identity to commence a better understanding of youth within the Court system in the variety of contacts addressed by the report. It is my understanding that the Department of Children and Families has been considering this some time for children within the child welfare system and I believe it is time to commence this data collection.

My next comment is on Recommendation 15.04.1, where I would also urge consideration of self-reporting of gender identity, unless this has been rejected as a possible HIPAA issue.

Finally, on Recommendation 15.04.2, I also urge voluntarily self-identifying data amongst attorneys be expanded to include gender identity.

Again, my thanks for the great work and interest of the AOC on these issues.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra E. Guston", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Debra E. Guston