



## NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

JOHN E. KEEFE JR., PRESIDENT  
 Keefe Law Firm  
 125 Half Mile Road  
 Floor 1, Suite 100  
 Red Bank, NJ 07701  
 732-224-9400 • FAX: 732-224-9494  
 jkeefe@keefe-lawfirm.com

June 15, 2018

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

**Re: Comments on Proposed Amendment to Rule 2:11-1 Concerning  
 Oral Argument Before the Appellate Division and Supreme Court**

Dear Judge Grant:

Thank you for providing the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA) with the opportunity to submit its views to the Court on the proposed amendment to Rule 2:11-1, concerning oral argument before the Appellate Division and Supreme Court. The NJSBA respectfully opposes the proposal and urges the Court to reject its adoption.

The NJSBA gathered insights from a wide range of its members on the proposal and they universally opposed it as unnecessary and counterproductive.

While the association has the utmost respect for the need for the Appellate Division and Supreme Court to ensure cases are handled in an efficient, while thorough, manner, the proposal to cut the number of attorneys eligible to make those arguments does not serve the interest of justice.

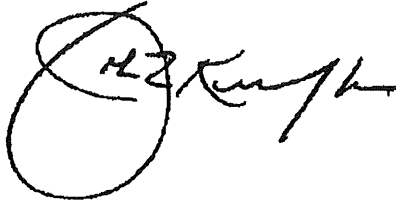
The matters that arise to the level of the Appellate Division and Supreme Court are by definition some of the most important and complicated cases of the thousands docketed each year. It is not typical practice that more than one attorney would present arguments for a party and a rule to limit the practice is addressing a problem that does not exist.

Due to the very nature of these cases and the specialized skills required of appellate advocacy there may be reasons for more than one attorney to present in appropriate situations so each can focus on a discrete issue. When the best advocate for a particular issue is permitted to offer arguments, both the court and public are well served. A further laudable byproduct of the

current rule is that it allows less-experienced attorneys to gain experience in sharing a portion of oral argument.

For these reasons, again, the NJSBA respectfully opposes the proposed amendment to Rule 2:11-1, concerning oral argument before the Appellate Division and Supreme Court, and urges the Court to reject its adoption.

Very truly yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Keefe Jr.", with a large, stylized initial "J" that loops around the first part of the name.

John E. Keefe Jr.  
President

/sab

cc: Evelyn Padin, Esq., NJSBA President-Elect  
Angela C. Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director