

LAW OFFICES
OF

ANGELO J. FALCIANI

203 HANOVER ROAD
WEST DEPTFORD, NEW JERSEY 08086
TELE (856) 848-0233; FAX (856) 845-3996

#002

August 3, 2018

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Comments on Municipal Court Operations,
Fines, and Fees Report
Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 037
Trenton, NJ 08625-0037



Dear Mr. Grant:

I read with interest the Notice to the Bar that appeared in the NJLJ issue of July 23, 2018.

I have been an active trial attorney for 61 years. I served in 4 Municipal Courts for 15 years. My best recollection reminds me that the stipend for serving as Judge of the Municipal court was \$400.00 per annum. My main reason for writing this letter is to recall the severe discomfort I experienced in trying a seriously contested matter with an adversary that often appeared before me in Municipal Court.

In 1960, I did a study in Gloucester County of income to Judges of Municipal Court, Prosecuting Attorneys and Defense Attorneys. Unfortunately, I am unable to locate that study.

The point that the study proved was that the total cost of Judges, Prosecuting Attorneys, and Defense Attorneys justified full time employment for the 3 positions mentioned. Today we have Judges of Municipal Courts receiving more income than Judges of the Superior Court.

The opposition to my paper in the 60's was, in the main, local municipalities did not want to lose control of Municipal Courts. My reply to the mentioned criticism was that the locus of the Municipal Courts could be retained thereby avoiding the need for a litigant in Municipal Court to travel to the County seat.

I also served for 15 yrs on the New Jersey State Bar Committee on Judicial Prosecutorial Appointments Committee. That Committee did an excellent job and should not be burdened with the qualification problems of Judges of Municipal Courts. I posit that the time has come to make Judges, Prosecuting Attorneys and Defense Attorneys full time.

My proposal would eliminate the obvious patent conflict when the Judge, Prosecuting Attorney and Defense Attorney appear in private contested matters.

Very truly yours,

Angelo J. Falciani

AJF/cd