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Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:09 AM
To: Comments Mailbox
Subject: [External]Comment on 2018 - 2020 Supreme Court Rules Committee Reports

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Dear Judge Grant,

Kindly accept this email as my comment with regards to the 2018 - 2020 Supreme Court Rules Committee Reports.

I am writing generally with regards to the civil practice rules discussed in the Reports. Specially as to R. 1:4-5 "Signing and Dating of Pleadings: Motions" and R. 1:4-6 "Typewritten Names". Collectively those two rules require that an attorney affix his original signature to all pleadings, motions and briefs. Difficulty has arisen during the covid 19 crisis for attorneys who are working remotely to have their original signature affixed onto documents and have that document scanned for filing. I am sure that I am not in the minority of attorneys who do not have sufficient technology in their homes to scan documents for filing. My purpose in writing this comment is to suggest that New Jersey either temporarily or fully adopt the federal practice as set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(d)(3)(C) and (D) "Serving and Filing Pleadings and Other Papers" which provide as follows:

. . . (C) *Signing*. A filing made through a person's electronic-filing account and authorized by that person, together with that person's name on a signature block, constitutes the person's signature. (D) *Same as a Written Paper*. A paper filed electronically is a written paper for purposes of these rules. . . .

Obviously, attorneys practicing in this State have a unique password which enables them to file electronically via ECourts. It seems that adopting the federal practice of considering an attorney's ECourts password to amount to his or her signature would be beneficial both during the covid 19 crisis but also going forward as it would enable attorneys more easily to work remotely be it on account of a pandemic or some other personal emergency.

I thank you and the Court for consideration of this comment.

Respectfully submitted,

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