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VIA EMAIL

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Hughes Justice Complex
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Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037
Comments.Mailbox@judiciary.state.nj.us

Re: Comments on Proposed Amendments to Rule 4:72 – Removal of Publication Requirement

Dear Judge Grant:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey (“ACLU-NJ”), I write in support of the proposed amendment to Rule 4:72, which eliminates the publication requirement for people seeking name changes.

The ACLU-NJ agrees with and relies on the comments provided by Brian Gatens of LeGaL (October 6, 2020) and by Robyn Gigl (October 14, 2020) that explain the risks to the transgender community if the notification requirement remains in place and the benefits of eliminating it.

As the ACLU-NJ explained in previous comments on the rules, while name changes can be affirming and liberating for transgender, gender non-conforming, and nonbinary people, they are also a matter of safety and practical necessity. We are grateful that the Court is evaluating the considerable risks of publication against the diminished benefits of the requirement, which no longer serves its ostensible purpose and is not statutorily required.

We urge the Court to adopt the proposed amendments to Rule 4:72.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jeanne LoCicero