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From: Joel Chipkin <joel@gmslaw.com>
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To: Comments Mailbox
Subject: [External]Virtual civil trials

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Dear Judge Grant

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issue of virtual trials. By way of background, I primarily practice plaintiff's personal injury law in Southern New Jersey. I have been practicing law for 31 years and have been a certified civil trial attorney for over 20 years.

While recognizing the need to move cases, I am very much against having virtual trials. I do not believe that my clients would receive a fair trial. I do not believe a virtual jury can get the "feel" of a case the same way a live jury can. Also, as you are well aware, getting a fair cross section of jurors is nearly impossible in the virtual setting. Inner city residents and the elderly do not possess the technology or skills needed to participate in a virtual selection process. As such, my clients will not have a jury of their peers.

I believe that the Courts should be concentrating on spending time conducting settlement conferences, mediations and bench trials. For example, each county can have a Plymouth Rock settlement day on a particular day and an Allstate settlement day the next. Hundreds of cases could be resolved in a short period of time. Certainly, far more cases can be resolved that way than by having virtual jury trials.

Thank you for your considerations.

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