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REPLY TO CLIFTON



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December 17, 2020

Via Email Comments.Mailbox@njcourts.com

The Honorable Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.  
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts  
Comments on Proposal for Virtual Civil Jury Trials  
Hughes Justice Complex; P.O. Box 037  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037

Re: Comments in Support for Virtual Civil Trials

Dear Judge Grant:

Please accept this letter as support by The Law Firm of Corradino & Papa for Jury Trials to continue virtually. The Civil Jury trial is an American Jurisprudence tradition, which is the ultimate means of dispute resolution in our society. However, due the unprecedented consequences of COVID-19, New Jerseyans have felt the impacts of no endgame to their disputes, which has many feeling frustrated and confused.

Thankfully, technology exists that allows for Jury Trials to be conducted virtually. In doing so, all participants including Judges, jurors, attorneys, witnesses, and clients can socially distance while completing the trial process.

As attorneys, we must be on the forefront of technology to ensure our clients and members of the public are able to access the courts. We must not sit back and be reactionary when dealing with one of the greatest pandemics of our country's history. We must at least make an effort to allow members of the public to have such access. This type of progressive thinking has fueled our country into being a leader in democracy and civil rights.

Our Firm feels as though the new process for the beginning of the jury voir dire would help save the public time, as well as the court staff, as unqualified jurors will be excluded before coming to the courthouse

Therefore, this Firm has reviewed the recommendations outlined by the Judiciary's Post-Pandemic Planning Committee on Resuming Jury Trials and agrees with the recommendations with a supplementation to the following:

2b. Jury selection.

- o To ameliorate any potential deficiencies in conducting voir dire remotely, we request that the Order reflect that the attorneys shall be granted deference in the voir dire process including requesting additional voir dire questions. Further, we ask that the Order reflect that the attorneys shall be permitted to ask follow up questions to the prospective jurors at their discretion.

Additionally, our Firm has researched the actions taken during previous pandemics. Our research has revealed that during the 1918 Pandemic some Courts held hearings outdoors to allow for social distancing and ventilation. We feel that this process should be explored for the Spring, Summer, and early Fall Seasons.

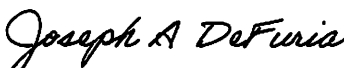
Thank you for your attention in this matter.



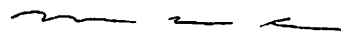
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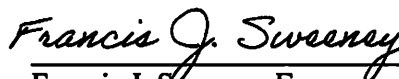
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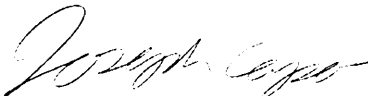
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