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Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 10:50 AM
To: Comments Mailbox
Cc: Jodi Mogan; Russell Webb; Michele Sebastiano; Kimberly Murphy; Angkana Sangkaew
Subject: [External]Future of Court Operations-Comment

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To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Mark Esposito, Bar Registration # 033511989, and I am a licensed practitioner since 1989 in New Jersey. I am writing in response to the request for comments identified in the recent Notice to the Bar with regards to the future of court operations.

Be advised that I currently serve as an arbitrator, on a regular basis, in South Jersey (Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer & Salem counties). As such, I have had a significant amount of experience with "remote" arbitrations over the past 14 months.

In my opinion, litigants have accommodated the process very well, with few difficulties, and generally work within the 40 minute constraints in a typical (public) zoom meeting. Through repetition, arbitration coordination between court staff and arbitrators has become routine, and in short, I agree that this practice should continue in a remote manner. It is most often more efficient and barring technical issues, a simpler way of conducting mandatory arbitration(s).

The only potential change that I would suggest, is providing arbitrators access to a commercial zoom account, which would allow participants to testify by phone, for those litigants whom are not "tech savvy". This cost is not included in the stipend provided to arbitrators, and the court should not presume that arbitrators have access to such accounts. That being said, most arbitrations are routinely held using "public access" zoom, and the above is NOT a necessity.

Respectfully,

Mark G. Esposito
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