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**Subject:** [External]Comments on Continuation of Certain Remote Proceedings

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To Whom it May Concern:

I wish to comment favorably on the continuation of the utilization of remote platforms to continue as many court operations and proceedings (other than jury trials) as are practicable.

As a plaintiff's attorney, the availability of these remote platforms for all manner of meetings and proceedings (e.g., depositions, client meetings, settlement conferences, mediations, case management conferences and motion arguments) has been a tremendous boon to productivity. We are, to put it simply, getting more accomplished by spending less physical time having to transport ourselves "to location." The time we would have spent in a car, during mediation caucuses or waiting in a courtroom to be called to counsel table is now spent attending to productive tasks in other matters.

This saves litigants time on both sides and thus saves money. It also leads to lower cost outlays for both sides, by dramatically reducing and/or eliminating cash outlay for various aspects of physical travel. As well, by saving time for judicial personnel and for attorneys, this measure contributes to a greater work/life balance for all concerned.

While there can never be a replacement for the personal connection between a jury and the individuals involved in presenting a trial, there is nothing else in which the Court engages that would not benefit from a preference in favor of utilization of remote platforms.

While the global pandemic was a terrible way to have to learn lessons about productivity and to entertain new ways of doing things, this lesson should not be one learned in vain, and set aside once the pandemic finally comes to a close.

Thank you.

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