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Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Comments on the Future of Court Operations
Hughes Justice Complex
P.O. Box 037
Trenton, N.J. 08625-0037

Re: Comments on the Future of Court Operations

Dear Judge Grant,

I am writing on behalf of our firm as it pertains to the above subject.

One of the few positives, if you can call it that, of the Pandemic is the demonstrated lack of necessity for mandatory Court appearances by counsel. As civil trial lawyers, it is our opinion that there is no need for attorney appearances for trial calls, case management conferences, oral argument, most settlement conferences, and arbitrations. I have arbitrated cases in Middlesex and Mercer Counties on approximately nine ((9)) occasions since the Pandemic and they all were conducted seamlessly.

In addition, our office conducted a mock jury trial focus group via Zoom on a challenging personal injury case, which went incredibly well.

We believe that the only appearances warranting in person appearances by clients, counsel and witnesses should be jury trials in civil cases, of course, as they are phased in with appropriate precautions.

The Pandemic has been tragic in many aspects, but we have learned that we do not have to drag lawyers to the Courthouse for every Court sponsored event.

Finally, we should retain the procedures that are being used in Middlesex and Mercer counties on cases which require a trial. Every case should be pretried by the trial judge before it proceeds to a trial to narrow the issues, make stipulations and to make the litigants, lawyers, jurors, and witnesses experience

shorter and more positive. There is no reason an expert witness cannot testify from their office if the proponent of the same has no issue with it.

Respectfully submitted,

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