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From: Michael Raff <michael@raffandraff.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 11:18 AM
To: Comments Mailbox
Subject: [External]RFC re: Future of Court Operations

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I am writing in response to the Request for Comments in the 07/16/21 Notice to the Bar.

I am an attorney with a practice limited to plaintiffs' personal injury matters. I am Certified by the Supreme Court of NJ as a Civil Trial Attorney.

I am in strong support of continuing to use remote (i.e. Zoom) format for ongoing civil court proceedings, *other than jury trials*. Civil court proceedings, such as oral arguments, case management conferences, settlement conferences, arbitration hearings, have been, in my opinion, far more efficient via remote format rather than in-person format. Remote access has reduced a tremendous amount of travel time and eliminated waiting in a courthouse for hours before being heard on a few-minute proceeding. My clients have been thrilled to not miss work or school. The countless hours a week that I previously spent traveling or sitting in a courthouse have now been spent toward my clients' cases.

In the civil litigation arena, Plaintiff and Defense attorneys have been moving our cases along extraordinarily well with the use of Zoom depositions and other remote formats. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, we attorneys have adapted and see the benefit of continued remote format.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

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