

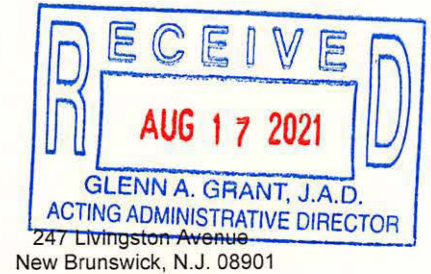
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August 12, 2021

Honorable 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, NJ 08625-037

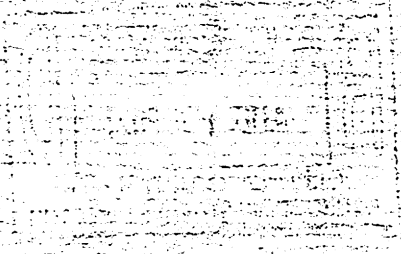
Re: Future of Court Operations
- Remote And in-Person Proceedings
- Publication For Comment

Dear Judge Grant,

Although I can appreciate all the problems created by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the future of the Criminal Justice System should not be compromised for the sake of efficiency. All of us, including the Administration of the Courts should remember why we went to law school and the idealism we all believed in when we graduated law school. That altruism is what should control how we proceed out of the COVID-19 dilemma.

Your proposal to proceed with virtual proceedings to the extent suggested, compromises our role as lawyers. Justice cannot be practiced by lawyers by looking at one another or communicating with one another by looking at a screen. Litigants and lawyers have the right to be in a courtroom experiencing the administration of justice personally, not by a virtual appearance.

21/11



I want to be a "lawyer" not just a body on a screen and
object to virtual proceedings unless absolutely necessary.

Cordially,
BENEDICT AND ALTMAN

SDA/ch

By: Steven D. Altman
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