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From: Christel Lugo <clugo@maduabumlaw.com>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 3:07 PM
To: Comments Mailbox
Subject: [External]Comment on proposal to continue with remote format post-pandemic

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Dear Judge Grant,

I am writing pursuant to the request for comment on the proposal to continue certain court events in a remote format post the pandemic.

I am wholeheartedly in support of this proposal. My firm is generally focused on municipal work, and I have heard many clients speak highly of the accessibility of the courts via Zoom. In the past, I have had multiple clients lose jobs due to having to attend in-person hearings, and virtual court has almost completely ended that issue. Many of my clients have also advised that this experience has helped them to see and understand our judicial process without the added intimidation that they feel when they are physically present.

On a personal note, being able to attend multiple hearings simultaneously has helped our firm's efficiency and has greatly reduced my level of stress. I used to drive about 20,000 miles per year just going to different courts, and having the ability to quickly conference a matter that needs discovery, or where I am requesting a simple adjournment, from the comfort of my office or my home is simply wonderful.

Virtual hearings are far from perfect, and I look forward to continued improvements in that arena, but I really think this has been a positive addition to our legal landscape.

I appreciate that the Judiciary is considering continuing with this virtual format, and am grateful for the opportunity to add my voice to the debate.

Respectfully submitted,

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