



## NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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May 9, 2025

Hon. Michael J. Blee, J.A.D.  
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts  
Rules Comments  
Hughes Justice Complex / P.O. Box 037  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037

Re: Comments on Supplemental Report of the 2023-2025 Criminal Practice  
Committee

Dear Judge Blee:

On behalf of the New Jersey State Bar Association, thank you for the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the Supplemental Report of the 2023-2025 Criminal Practice Committee.

The report makes important recommendations about the access of incarcerated individuals to their attorneys and technology to review discovery and other documents related to their case, as well as keeping attorneys informed about visitation and discovery rules at detention facilities. Specific recommendations include expanded in-person visits at detention facilities; increased availability of virtual attorney appointments; maintenance of sufficient computer facilities to meet the needs of incarcerated individuals; the provision of incarcerated defendants with reasonable time to review eDiscovery; and the maintenance of a central document detailing visitation and discovery rules at each custodial facility that can be shared with defense counsel.

The NJSBA strongly supports the implementation of all of the recommendations. If instituted, the changes will help to improve the administration of justice in criminal cases by providing increased fairness and efficiency in those matters. In addition, they will address some of the difficulties that defense attorneys currently experience in trying to prepare a defense for their incarcerated clients.

Again, the Association thanks the Supreme Court for allowing the bar to review the recommendations and submit these comments. We commend the extensive volunteer efforts of the committee members and hope that our comments represent a meaningful contribution to their work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "William H. Mergner, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

William H. Mergner Jr., Esq.  
President

cc: Christine A. Amalfe, Esq., NJSBA President-Elect  
Angela C. Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director