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Chief Justice Rabner
Supreme Court of New Jersey
Hughes Justice Complex
P.O. Box 037
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037

Dear Chief Justice Rabner:

Thank you and the Court again for the opportunity to provide testimony today regarding proposed changes to New Jersey's Landlord Tenant court forms, procedures and related court rules.

In response to your question today regarding the proposed time between court filing and trial in Rule 6:2-1, as stated during the hearing, LSNJ believes that the current practice of providing 5 weeks is both reasonable and necessary for tenants to prepare for an eviction. This timeframe was extended in the Court's July 14, 2023 Order, which removed the pre-trial settlement conference but implemented the five-week timeframe in its stead. Should the Court determine that a shorter timeframe is warranted, LSNJ recommends that the Court also reinforce the directive regarding adjournments (#9 in the July 2023 Order) and expand this to include both pending rental assistance applications and efforts to secure legal assistance. Such reinforcement and expansion would further the Court's goal to support fairness for all parties.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maura Sanders

Maura Sanders
Practice Section Chief Counsel for Housing
Legal Services of New Jersey

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dawn K. Miller".

Dawn K. Miller, Esq.
President
Legal Services of New Jersey