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**Subject:** [External]Public Comment re: Remote Proceedings

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I am writing to respond to the Court's request for public comment on remote court proceedings. My practice only includes civil, family, criminal, and municipal court matters, mostly for lower to middle income clients. As such, this issue is very important to my firm, my clients, and the greater community that we service.

First, I would like to commend all parties involved with the transition from fully in-person appearances to today's mostly virtual system. There were some bumps in the road at first, but other than that we have had great success with the new format. My office is able to handle a larger volume of cases and at the same time we are able to charge clients less money. This is due to the fact that my usual routine of racing to court, waiting for hours, and then racing to the next court, no longer exists. This also allows the very busy courts that I practice in to adjudicate more cases - for example, just the other day, I appeared in 8 different courts for a variety of matters, within a 6 hour period. This would not be possible with in-person appearances. And our clients have been thrilled as they no longer need to take days off of work for simple matters like appearing for a case management conference for their divorce, negotiating a plea for a speeding ticket, or appearing for a status conference on a criminal matter.

For these reasons, we very much welcome the policy of continuing to operate in a virtual setting. It is my hope that virtual appearances are simply the norm, forever, on every single court matter **unless** a judge is taking testimony. If there is a trial or evidentiary hearing, we would want the court to notify everyone, in advance, that the hearing will take place at a given time, and have that time slot scheduled specifically for the hearing. But other than that type of situation, I believe that it is in everyone's best interest to have a virtual appearance and to continue to develop better technological solutions to improve those virtual appearances.

Thank you for considering our feedback.

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Very truly yours,

Daniel A. Levy, Esq.



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