



May 22, 2014

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Attn: Comments on Expedited Civil Actions
Hughes Justice Complex; P.O. Box 037
Trenton, NJ 08625-0037

Re: Public Comment of NJCJI Concerning the Report of the New Jersey Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Expedited Civil Actions

Dear Judge Grant and Members of the New Jersey Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Expedited Civil Actions:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of the Advisory Committee's report and recommendations.

The New Jersey Civil Justice Institute (NJCJI) is a coalition of businesses, associations, and individuals¹ that advocates for reforms that ensure the civil justice system treats all parties fairly and discourages lawsuit abuse. The Institute and its members believe that a fair civil justice system resolves disputes expeditiously and impartially, based solely upon application of the law to the facts of each case. Such a system fosters public trust and motivates professionals, sole proprietors, and businesses to provide safe and reliable products and services while ensuring that truly injured people are fully compensated for their losses.

As the saying goes, "Justice delayed is justice denied." Far too often civil litigants in New Jersey state courts, particularly those with business interests at stake, are denied meaningful legal redress by the length of time it takes to resolve relatively simple cases. These delays are a denial of justice as expenses mount to the point that they exceed recovery, business opportunities are lost, and resources are diverted away from productive use.

The recommendations the Advisory Committee has laid out are a good start toward restoring the business community's waning confidence in the courts as a forum for efficient dispute resolution. We encourage the New Jersey Supreme Court to adopt the recommendations in full.

Much attention has been given to the fact that the pilot program proposed by the Advisory Committee is mandatory. The Institute understands why the choice was made to make the pilot program mandatory, and supports it in this instance. We urge the court to closely examine the impacts of having a pilot program be mandatory and the court's ability to draw conclusions from such a program before future mandatory pilot programs are adopted.

¹ NJCJI Members, <http://www.civiljusticenj.org/about-us/members/>.

We urge the Supreme Court to adopt the Advisory Committee's recommendations in full.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

New Jersey Civil Justice Institute
Marcus Rayner, President