

From: [Steven Tanenbaum](#)

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To: [Comments Mailbox](#)

Subject: [External]Proposal to Require Submission of Arbitration Statements to the Arbitrator in Advance of the Arbitration Hearing Date - Amendments to Rule 4:21A-4(a)

Date: Monday, October 31, 2022 10:37:38 AM

Mr. Grant-

I have been serving as a court appointed arbitrator in Middlesex County for over 20 years. Please note my comments to the proposed Amendment to Rule 4:21A-4(a):

1. The submission of party Arbitration statements should be required prior to the date of the Arbitration, especially where the proceedings are remote. At present, I request that counsel submit same to me at least two (2) full business days before the scheduled hearing. This affords me the time to carefully review the materials (often times voluminous) prior to the hearing and to effectively streamline the hearing and render a prompt and detailed narrative award.
2. Submission should be 3 days before the hearing date.
3. This requirement should also apply to in person hearings.
4. The consequence should be in the Arbitrator's discretion whether to consider the evidence presented, in whole or in part.

Lastly, I also feel that the Arbitrator should not have more than 4 cases to hear/decide on any given hearing date.

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