

NOTICE TO THE BAR

REPORT OF THE SUPREME COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EXPEDITED CIVIL ACTIONS – PUBLICATION FOR COMMENT

This notice publishes for comment the [Report of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Expedited Civil Actions](#). This report also will be available on the Judiciary's internet web site at <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/reports2014/index.htm>.

The Advisory Committee, formed by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner in May 2013 and co-chaired by Justice Faustino Fernandez-Vina (at the time Camden Assignment Judge) and attorney Thomas R. Curtin, was charged with developing proposals that will streamline Civil actions, focusing on such things as the types of cases receptive to expedited practice and possible pretrial and trial procedures to expedite cases.

As set forth in the report, the Advisory Committee recommends institution of a pilot program in two vicinages for an expedited litigation track for all Track 1 and Track 2 cases (with some categories of exceptions). Features of the proposed pilot program would include the following: (1) an opt out provision; (2) limitations on interrogatories, document requests, depositions, and adjournments; (3) case management conferences within 45 days after the first responsive pleading to determine the discovery schedule and set the trial date; (4) no Rule 4:21A arbitration unless requested by all parties; (5) pretrial information exchange; (6) exclusion of witnesses whose testimony would only be cumulative; (7) limitations on the number of peremptory challenges; (8) time limits on opening statements and summations; and (9) encouraging expert testimony by mutual agreement to be by video recording or reports rather than live testimony.

Please send any comments on the Advisory Committee's recommendations in writing by **Friday, June 6, 2014** to:

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, New Jersey 08625-0037

Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to: Comments.Mailbox@judiciary.state.nj.us.

The Supreme Court will not consider comments submitted anonymously. Those submitting comments by mail should include their name and address. Comments submitted in response to this notice may be subject to public disclosure after the Court has acted on the Working Group's report.

/s/ Glenn A. Grant

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: April 15, 2014