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From: Myers, Khabirah <myersk@ci.newark.nj.us>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 4:56 PM
To: Comments Mailbox
Subject: [External]Comment to Proposed Amendments to Rule 1:38-3 – Records of Landlord/Tenant Matters Not Resulting in Judgment for Possession

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Good afternoon. I respectfully submit this comment in response to the Court's proposed amendments to Rule 1:38-3. I share the sentiments expressed in the letter recently submitted by my fellow advocates at Volunteer Lawyers for Justice (VLJ). But I wish to add the following suggestion(s) to their submission. As a caveat, **these suggestions are my own** and do not represent the opinion of any of the advocates who signed the aforementioned commentary letter recently submitted by VLJ.

Service of Process Issues Must Be Addressed.

Please be advised that my agreement with the sentiments expressed in the aforementioned advocates' letter is not a concession that there are no serious service-of-process problems in the State of New Jersey. I believe the opposite to be true -- particularly in the Landlord-Tenant Division of the Superior Court of Essex. And I suspect that this year's **United States Postal Service crisis** that caused delays in the delivery of mail by the USPS has exacerbated the service-of-process problems.

Pre-COVID-19, multiple defendant-tenants were not properly served with eviction Summonses and Complaints and unfairly faced eviction by default as a result.

If the proposed amendments to Rule 1:38-3 go into effect, then the service-of-process issue **MUST** be immediately and concomitantly addressed. I beseech the AOC to take immediate steps to ensure proper service of eviction Summonses and Complaints. These steps may include -- but are certainly not limited to -- serving complaints on litigants via electronic mail (email) and, if a litigant agrees, serving the litigant with text-message reminders as the court-proceeding date draws near.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Respectfully,

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