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October 6, 2020

Via E-mail (Comments.Mailbox@njcourts.gov)

The Honorable Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Comments on Proposed Amendments to Rule 1:42-1 and CLE Regulations –
Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias Requirement

Hughes Justice Complex; P.O. Box 037

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037

**Re: Comments of Legal Services of New Jersey Regarding Proposed
Amendments to Rule 1:42 and CLE Regulations to Require Credits in
Diversity, Inclusion, and Elimination of Bias**

Dear Judge Grant:

As you know, Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) coordinates and supports the statewide network of non-profit legal services programs providing free legal assistance in civil cases to low-income individuals statewide. We emphatically support the Court's proposed changes to statewide CLE adding diversity, inclusion, and elimination of bias to the ethics/professionalism requirement.

Under the proposal, Court Rule 1:42 and related CLE regulations would require two credits for diversity, inclusion and elimination of bias within the ethics/professionalism requirement and increase the current ethics/professionalism requirement of four credits to five credits.

This is a proposal which had been discussed by the Supreme Court on Minority Concerns (now, the Supreme Court of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement) -- of which we have been a longstanding member -- and one which we had fully supported during and since those discussions.

In order to achieve the ultimate goal of equal justice for all, it is crucial that we confront with focused intent, and take all necessary efforts to dismantle the existing mechanisms which continue to oppress people in poverty and people of color in New Jersey. The learned professionals of our state's legal system must lead the way in this effort, in an educated and deliberate way. The Court's proposal to change the statewide CLE requirement takes a significant step towards this goal.

We thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Legal Services of New Jersey

By:



Akil Roper
Senior Vice President and
Assistant General Counsel