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To: Comments Mailbox
Subject: [External]Comments-Virtual Civil Jury Trials

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Dear Judge Grant:

Our colleagues have made massive leaps in the use of technology during the course of the current health crisis, and we should all be ready to commit to virtual civil jury trials. I commend the AOC and the entire judiciary on their work during this time to keep operations running as close to normal as possible. The time has come, however, to take the next step and when virtual civil jury trials begin, they should be mandatory. This will have the positive effect of clearing the court's growing backlog and affording our clients their long-awaited day in court.

I was scheduled and prepared to pick a jury Monday, March 16 2020 in one of my firm's pending personal injury matters. Like so many other plaintiffs whom I represent, and others across the country, this client will wait indefinitely for a resolution due to the pandemic. There is a glimmer of hope for us in the prospect of virtual jury trials, but it should not be up to the defense bar and insurance industry to determine when and whether our client gets her day in court by withholding their consent.

Over the last nine months, we as an industry have collectively gained the competency required to conduct remote trials by handling myriad other mandatory proceedings like depositions, arbitrations, mediation, motion hearings, appeals and any number of other matters virtually. We must add civil jury trials to this list.

Respectfully Submitted,

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