NOTICE TO THE BAR

VIRTUAL GRAND JURY PILOT PROGRAM – EXPANSION TO GRAND JURY SELECTION (IN ADDITION TO SESSIONS)

The Supreme Court by Orders dated May 14, 2020 and June 4, 2020 authorized a pilot program for virtual grand jury sessions, starting in Bergen and Mercer Counties.

By Order dated June 9, 2020, the Court expanded that pilot program to also permit selection (empanelment) of grand juries in a virtual format, either in the initial pilot counties or in other counties. To bridge the digital divide, technology configured and administered by the Judiciary will be supplied to grand jurors where necessary to enable participation in the virtual (video) selection process. Summoned grand jurors may participate in virtual selection using a smartphone or other technology with camera functionality, although a larger-screen device must be used for grand jury sessions.

The Court's June 9, 2020 Order is attached.

Glenn A. Grant by SBB

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

Dated: June 12, 2020

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

The Supreme Court by Orders dated May 14, 2020 and June 4, 2020 authorized a pilot program for virtual (video) grand jury proceedings.

The operational steps undertaken to prepare for virtual (video) grand jury proceedings also would support selection of new grand juries using a comparable video conferencing process. Summoned grand jurors would participate using their own personal technology, or, if they lack devices or supports (including reliable internet service), grand jurors would participate using technology configured and administered by the Judiciary.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that effective immediately, for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency and until further order:

1. The pilot program for virtual grand jury proceedings is expanded to allow grand jury selection to be conducted in a virtual (video) format in the initial pilot counties (Bergen and Mercer) and in additional counties.
2. Consistent with the principles of the virtual grand jury pilot program as established in the Court's May 14, 2020 Order, technology configured and administered by the Judiciary shall be supplied to grand jurors as necessary to enable participation in the virtual (video) selection process.
3. Summoned grand jurors may participate in virtual selection using a smartphone or other smaller technology with camera functionality. A

laptop, tablet, or other larger-screen device must be used for grand jury proceedings.

For the Court

Chief Justice

Dated: June 9, 2020