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UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM

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UNIFORM CASE SCHEDULING ORDER ADOPTED IN CITY CIVIL CASES LITIGATED IN SUPREME COURT ACROSS NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORK – Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts George J. Silver today announced that as of Monday, October 5, 2020, the New York City courts will adopt a uniform case scheduling order in all civil cases where the City of New York is named as a defendant.

This is a watershed moment for case management within the ever-adapting court system. The uniform case scheduling order is the first of its kind – a comprehensive, court-issued order outlining everything from deposition dates to an exhaustive list of specific disclosures that must be made in certain types of cases, like traditional slip and fall and trip and fall lawsuits. In consideration of the ongoing pandemic, the uniform case scheduling order will be issued at the outset of a case without the need for in-person conferencing. Instead, clerks will enter dates for discovery disclosures once a request for a preliminary conference is filed. To ensure that discovery dates do not conflict with attorney and witness schedules, the clerks will contact the parties to solicit important initial information in all cases. For instance, attorneys may be asked to provide a range of acceptable deposition dates, and to disclose whether the right to a General Municipal Law §50-h hearing has been waived. Once such information is received, it will be entered into the uniform case scheduling order, reviewed by the presiding judge in a designated city part, and issued.

Above all else, the uniform case scheduling order offers a blueprint for the court's desire to offer efficient and predictable outcomes in city cases litigated across the five boroughs. For years, litigants and attorneys alike have endured avoidable challenges when navigating fragmented and unsimilar rules across the five counties within New York City. The court's uniform case scheduling order addresses that by adopting a set of comprehensible, simplified and standardized rules in thousands of civil cases litigated throughout the city.

This undertaking factored input and proposals from outside stakeholders and the Chief Clerks in each borough. The partnership between these constituencies was facilitated by the dedicated leadership of the Administrative Judges in each county throughout the city. A special thanks is owed to the Hon. Deborah Kaplan, Administrative Judge for Civil Matters in New York County, as well as to New York County Chief Clerk Denis Reo, Esq., and Hasa Kingo, Esq. for their invaluable contributions to this process.

The uniform case scheduling order will be conspicuously posted to the court's website. Attorneys and litigants alike are encouraged to embrace the innovative and efficient aims of this pursuit.

Dated: October 5, 2020