NOTICE TO THE BAR

COVID-19 – VIRTUAL CIVIL JURY TRIALS

The Supreme Court has amended two provisions of its January 7, 2021 Order authorizing virtual civil jury trials. The Court's attached February 1, 2021 Order clarifies that the Judiciary will provide a Samsung Galaxy tablet or similar device to jurors who require technology to participate in virtual selection or virtual trials. It also provides that the first virtual civil jury trials will be broadcast publicly subject to a brief delay to provide for review in order to prevent any inadvertent disclosure of juror identity or broadcast of juror images. A video recording will be posted on the Judiciary's public website on the next business day following the virtual civil jury trial proceedings. Requests for real-time public access should be directed to the Vicinage Assignment Judge.

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to the Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts.

Hon. Glenn A. Grant
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: February 1, 2021

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

This amends two provisions of the Court's January 7, 2021 Order authorizing implementation of a two-phase approach to virtual civil jury trials during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as follows:

Effective immediately and until further order, it is ORDERED that:

(1) The Judiciary will provide a different electronic device, a Samsung Galaxy tablet or similar device, as necessary to support juror participation in virtual jury selections and virtual civil jury trials. This revises paragraph 4(b) of the January 7, 2021 Order.

(2) The first virtual civil jury trials will be broadcast publicly subject to a brief delay to provide for review in order to prevent any inadvertent disclosure of juror identity or broadcast of juror images. Requests for live public access to virtual civil jury trials should directed to the Assignment Judge. This revises paragraph 7 of the January 7, 2021 Order.

(3) All other provisions of the Court's January 7, 2021 Order remain in full force and effect.

For the Court,

Chief Justice

Dated: February 1, 2021