

## MERCER COUNTY CIVIL/FAMILY COURTHOUSE CLOSED UNTIL 3-30-2020

To the Mercer County Bar Association from Mary C. Jacobson, A.J.S.C.

At the direction of the Chief Justice, the New Jersey Superior Court has been transitioning to remote access for court proceedings to the greatest extent possible in light of the corona virus pandemic. Our aim is to protect the health and safety of court staff, attorneys, litigants, and other court users. For the past week as we worked toward this transition, the Mercer County civil and criminal courthouses have been open for emergent matters and certain other functions such as receiving child support payments. As of Friday March 20, 2020, we will be closing the civil courthouse at 175 South Broad Street. The criminal courthouse at 400 South Warren Street will be open on a very restricted basis for truly emergent criminal and civil matters only. All of our judges and staff will be working remotely except as needed for emergent matters that cannot be conducted virtually. We will be reassessing this situation with the County at the end of next week to determine if these limitations will continue. We ask for your patience and cooperation in this challenging time. It is our hope that we can resume some level of virtual service for non-emergent matters in the days ahead, and some of our judges have already begun conducting proceedings such as conferences and motion arguments remotely. I know that our Presiding Judges have been in touch with Bar Association representatives regarding issues of general application for specific practice areas and I encourage this kind of communication to continue. Bar President Creegan should also feel free to contact me directly with any comments or concerns about remote and emergent court services going forward. Thank you for your continuing support of our efforts and please know that it is my sincerest hope that all of your members and the entire legal community stay well as we weather this unprecedented storm together. MCJ