



NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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October 20, 2014

Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
Hughes Justice Complex; P.O. Box 037
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037

Dear Judge Grant:

The New Jersey State Bar Association appreciates the opportunity to address the proposed increases to state court fees, which emanate as a result of the recently enacted bail reform legislation.

Our Board of Trustees received feedback from various sections and committees of the bar, as well as other law-related organizations, and discussed the issue at length when it met last Friday, October 17. The Association recognizes the Court's need to fund the e-technology program with these funds, and we look forward to the implementation of the system improvements, some of which you kindly demonstrated for us in September. We do continue, however, to urge the Court to strive to ensure that any fee increases are implemented with the greatest efficiency and transparency and are kept as low as possible, in fairness to the litigants who ultimately pay these fees.

In reviewing the Court's proposal, the Board determined that the Association cannot take a position on the proposed schedule of fees at this time. The Trustees felt not enough information was available on how the Judiciary reached the amount of particular fees and fee increases, and on the Court's precise plan to implement electronic filing, improved technology and efforts related to bail reform measures, based on the fees proposed.

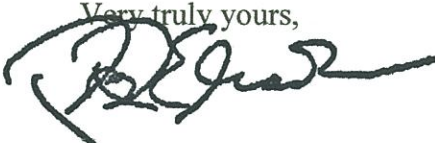
To that end, the Association requests more detailed information from the Court so that we can better analyze the Court's proposal and offer constructive comment. Specifically, the following information is requested:

- The analysis used to determine the amount of each new fee and of each increased fee.
- The calculations used to reach the financial goals of this legislation.
- The total costs associated with implementing e-courts and expanded pretrial services unit, the ongoing costs of each, and an analysis of whether these fee increases will meet or exceed that goal.

- A cost-savings analysis indicating what efficiencies will be realized by the Bar, litigants, especially those who are *pro se* or do not qualify for legal assistance, and the system as a whole by moving to an e-court system.

As it has in the past, the Association appreciates the opportunity to work cooperatively with the Court on maximizing the effectiveness of the judicial system for the bar, the judiciary and the public. Accordingly, the Association looks forward to reviewing any additional information you can provide before any increases are implemented.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Eliades", written over the closing text.

Paris P. Eliades
President

c: NJSBA Board of Trustees
Angela C. Scheck, Executive Director