



Message from Assignment Judge Peter F. Bariso, Jr.

I hope this message finds you and your families in good health.

The COVID – 19 health crisis has required response and decision making of unprecedented proportion. The situation remains fluid but I wanted to provide information on where we are now.

Under the leadership of Chief Justice Rabner and Acting Administrator of the Courts, Judge Glenn A. Grant, the judiciary has responded to this situation to ensure continuing access to the courts.

The situation remains fluid, but I wanted to provide the following updates as to where we are now:

- The courts are not closed. However, we are trying to keep as many people as possible out of the courthouse. In addition, we are in the process of moving to a remote environment where staff and judges can conduct the business of the courts, including on the record proceedings, from off site locations. As you can imagine this is a herculean effort on behalf of our IT division, judges and staff. Once the technology is up and running many of the matters that historically required an in-person appearance will be done via video connection. Meanwhile, some judges are currently conducting hearings by telephone or video conferencing. Every judge's chamber phone is being answered so please contact chambers if you have a question on your matter. If you get a voicemail recording please leave a message as chambers staff is retrieving voicemail messages remotely.
- A skeleton crew of staff are also on-site to handle only emergent matters. Only the Newark Avenue entrance is currently open to the public. Staff (practicing social distancing) are stationed at the doors to screen and re-direct the public.
- Applications for TROs and ERPOs are being taken at the local police departments.
- We have placed signage and drop boxes at the entrances of the Administration Building and the Brenan Courthouse for emergent filings.

- A mailbox for emergent matters has been established and is being monitored daily by staff. (hudemergent.mbx@njcourts.gov).
- All CJP and CJR first appearances, including weekday sessions, are being conducted virtually.
- The following contact numbers have been established for each of the divisions:
 - Civil (201)748-4400 ext 60110
 - Special Civil (201) 748-4400 ext 66680
 - Criminal (201)748-4400 ext 60160
 - Family (201)74-4400 ext 60810

I want to thank all of you for your patience and cooperation. We will get through this by working together.

I will continue to update the Bar as new information becomes available.