



## NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

DOMENICK CARMAGNOLA, PRESIDENT  
Carmagnola & Ritardi, LLC  
60 Washington Street, Suite 300  
Morristown, NJ 07960-6859  
973-267-4445 • FAX: 973-267-4456  
dcarmagnola@cr-law.net

January 4, 2022

Hon. Ellen Bass, ALJ  
Acting Director/Chief Administrative Law Judge  
New Jersey Office of Administrative Law  
33 Washington Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

**Re: Zoom/In-Person Hearings**

Dear Judge Bass:

The New Jersey State Bar Association applauds the efforts of the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) to return to normalcy and possibly schedule a start date for the resumption of in-person hearings this month.

While in-person proceedings may be necessary in certain cases, many may still be able to proceed virtually without incident or negative impact on the process. In light of this, coupled with renewed concerns about the pandemic, the NJSBA respectfully requests that the OAL establish a policy to honor a preference for Zoom hearings in situations where both counsel and the presiding Administrative Law Judge have no objection and prefer to proceed via Zoom, rather than in person.

On behalf of the NJSBA, thank you for the Court's consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Domenick Carmagnola".

Domenick Carmagnola  
NJSBA President

cc: Jeralyn L. Lawrence, Esq., NJSBA President-Elect  
Angela C. Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director