



NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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Honorable Stuart Rabner
Chief Justice, New Jersey Supreme Court
Hughes Justice Complex
25 W. Market Street
PO Box 023
Trenton, NJ 08625-0023

RE: Notification of Municipal Court Closings

Dear Chief Justice Rabner:

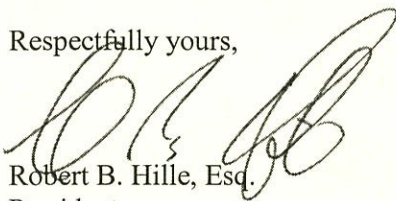
Thank you for discussing the issue of providing a uniform means of notification to practitioners and litigants about municipal court closings at the meeting between the New Jersey State Bar Association and the Supreme Court last month.

Unlike other courts, there is no central location where information about municipal court closings or delays is disseminated in an organized manner. It is important for practitioners and litigants to be able to quickly and easily access this information, especially under circumstances like those that occurred this past winter, where the Governor declared a state of emergency, yet some municipal courts remained open. Because of the uncertainty, many municipal court practitioners travelled to courts despite the dangerous conditions in case court was still in session. Furthermore, many attorneys were uncertain of how to advise their clients to protect them against a contempt of court order.

One potential way to accomplish the goal of providing uniform information is to have a policy that municipal courts follow the superior courts in the vicinage. This would alleviate the need for a new website or alert system. Alternatively, establishing a standard, uniform publicly accessible place where municipal courts would be required to report any closings or delays would go a long way toward eliminating the confusion and guesswork that currently occurs. The Court's website, njcourts.com, could easily serve this purpose.

Thank you again for considering this request. Please let me know if you require any further information.

Respectfully yours,



Robert B. Hille, Esq.
President

cc: Hon. Glenn A. Grant, Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
John E. Keefe Jr., NJSBA President-Elect
Angela C. Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director