NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION



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Honorable Glenn A. Grant Administrative Director of the Courts Comments on Proposed Amendments to Rule 1:38-3 – Exclusion of Medical and Related Records from Public Access Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 037 Trenton, NJ 08625-0037

Re: Comments on Proposed Amendments to Rule 1:38-3 – Exclusion of Medical and Related Records from Public Access

Dear Judge Grant:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and submit comments on proposed amendments to Rule 1:38-3, which would exclude certain medical and related records from public access.

The New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA) wholeheartedly supports the proposal. We believe that medical, psychiatric, psychological and alcohol and drug dependence records, reports and evaluations are personal, sensitive documents that should be kept confidential and shielded from public access as proposed, unless a court orders otherwise. We note that this is already the case in family law matters related to child support, child custody and parenting time determinations, and the association believes it is appropriate to provide the same exclusion from public access in other matters as well.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to review the proposal. The NJSBA stands ready to assist in implementing it in any way it can.

Respectfully,

Jeralyn L. Lawrence, Esq. President

cc: Timothy McGoughran, Esq., President-Elect Angela C. Scheck, Executive Director