



## NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

WILLIAM H. MERGNER JR., PRESIDENT

Leary Bride Mergner & Bongiovanni P.A.

7 Ridgedale Avenue

Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927

973-539-2090

EMAIL: [wmergner@lbmlaw.com](mailto:wmergner@lbmlaw.com)

July 19, 2024

Hon. Glenn A. Grant  
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts  
Dissolution CMO – Removal as Rules Appendix  
Hughes Justice Complex / P.O. Box 037  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0037

RE: Proposal to Remove FM Case Management Order as  
a Rules Appendix

Dear Judge Grant:

Thank you for the opportunity for the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA) to submit comments on a proposal to remove the FM Case Management Order, now included in the Rules of Court as Appendix X, as a Rules Appendix. We appreciate the additional time provided to allow for a comprehensive review of the proposal.

The NJSBA is concerned about the proposal and urges the Judiciary to not move forward with it. The Notice to the Bar indicates that removing the form from the Court Rules will simplify the process for future amendments; however, that is the very reason for the NJSBA's concerns. The comment process currently afforded individuals before any changes are made to forms contained in the Rules Appendix is critical to ensuring any changes are thoroughly vetted and take all perspectives into account. The NJSBA is concerned if the form is not included in the Court Rules, the opportunity to provide such comments will not be available.

Additionally, removal of the FM Case Management Order from the Rules Appendix raises access to justice concerns, as including it in the Appendix enables self-represented litigants to have easier access to the form.

For these reasons, the NJSBA urges the Judiciary to not adopt the proposal and to keep the FM Case Management Order as a Rules Appendix. This will ensure it is readily available to everyone, and that any changes are subject to notice, review and comment.

Thank you again for the additional time provided to allow for the submission of comments on this proposal, and the opportunity to participate in this important process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William H. Mergner, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

William H. Mergner, Jr., Esq.  
President

cc: Christine A. Amalfe, Esq., NJSBA President-Elect  
Angela C. Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director