



## NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

CHRISTINE A. AMALFE, PRESIDENT, NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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October 6, 2025

Honorable Stuart Rabner, Chief Justice  
New Jersey Supreme Court  
Hughes Justice Complex  
25 Market Street  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: Reconstitution of Municipal Court Working Group

Dear Chief Justice Rabner:

During your 2019 State of the Judiciary address at the New Jersey State Bar Association's Annual Meeting, you noted that New Jersey's municipal courts are "the face of justice to the public" and that the only interaction most people have with the court system is when they appear before a municipal judge.

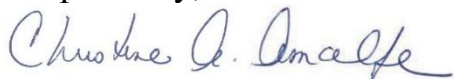
You praised New Jersey's municipal court system as one of the finest in the nation, but you also acknowledged that there is room for improvement. You were looking forward to a Working Group report that was expected to provide a path forward to implementing recommendations for improvement. Soon after, though, the pandemic presented a new onslaught of challenges and much of the anticipated work to improve municipal courts had to be put on hold.

The NJSBA believes the time is ripe for a thoughtful and careful consideration of changes to municipal courts aimed at improving the functioning of the courts, ensuring fairness in the courts' administration, and maintaining the independence of municipal court judges. While there were several municipal court studies undertaken and numerous recommendations made by the NJSBA and two different Court groups between 2017 and 2019, those recommendations need to be reviewed and vetted in light of the new realities of our post-Covid world.

It is recommended that the Court reconstitute a Working Group on Municipal Court Reform, including representatives from the NJSBA, to examine the prior reports and recommendations on municipal court reform. The Working Group could determine what recommendations remain valid, what recommendations need to be revised or removed, what new action is warranted, and how to best implement changes going forward. In this way, we can fulfill your words from 2019 that, "Working together, we can make the system even stronger."

Thank you for your consideration of this request. As always, the NJSBA stands ready to assist the Court in any way it can to build upon our impressive municipal court system to make it an even better ambassador to the justice system for New Jersey residents.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Christine A. Amalfe".

Christine A. Amalfe  
President

cc: Norberto A. Garcia, Esq., NJSBA President-Elect  
Angela C. Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director