

MESSAGE TO THE BAR

Hello to all, I want to express my sincere best wishes for your health and welfare in this turbulent time. I also want to share some updates with you regarding the State of the Courts at present, and I say at present, because things are changing literally by the minute as we struggle, like you, with this global pandemic.

As of this moment, the Court is closed to the public, but still operational. We have reduced our in-courtroom personnel to a minimal staff who will be here on a rotation schedule, but we are continuing to accept filings and continuing to hear matters, above and beyond the basic critical emergencies, with the use of technology. Matters that can be conducted by video (Zoom), will be done that way, and others will be done by telephone, on the record. It is our goal to do as much as possible to meet the justice needs of our citizens. The remaining court personnel will be working from home to support the staff that is here. For now, you should continue to reach out through the same phone numbers and e-mail addresses as always. Please be patient however, as we work through these changes to respond to you. Likewise, while technology is proving to be invaluable in this crisis, it does not come without its shortcomings, and the learning curve for all involved is something we can all appreciate and hopefully be gracious in accommodating.

From the Court's perspective, it would be most helpful for those attorneys working from home to supply their cell phone numbers and/or alternate e-mail addresses to the Court, if you know that you have an upcoming matter, and wish to be contacted a certain way.

I cannot promise that every case can be heard, or that every hearing will be perfect in its execution, as we work to improve our capacity to use the technology available to us. But I am certain that the kindness and generosity of the Burlington County Bar is unsurpassed, and that together, we can achieve a great deal, despite these setbacks. Let us stay Burlington County strong and Burlington County healthy, and we will get to the other side. I thank you for your time and will continue to keep you informed as there are new developments.

Assignment Judge Jeanne T. Covert
Burlington Vicinage