

## SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the Supreme Court has suspended landlord/tenant trials while authorizing pretrial/settlement conferences in which trained neutrals (landlord/tenant settlors) assist parties in attempting to resolve eviction complaints.

To maximize opportunities to amicably resolve the growing number of eviction complaints filed before and during COVID-19, the Court is enlisting additional categories of qualified individuals to serve as landlord/tenant settlors, subject to appropriate training as applicable.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED, pursuant to N.J. Const., Art. VI, sec. 2, par. 3, that effective immediately and until further order:

1. Rule 1:40-12(a)(4) (“Special Civil Part Settlers”) of the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey is relaxed and supplemented so as to permit the following individuals to serve as landlord/tenant settlors:
  - a. Retired or former New Jersey Supreme Court justices and retired Superior Court judges not serving on recall;
  - b. New Jersey attorneys in good standing who served as Judiciary law clerks and completed the six hours of general complementary dispute resolution training pursuant to Rule 1:40-12(b)(6) during

the 2019-2020 term, subject to completion of five hours of substantive and procedural training in landlord/tenant law; and

- c. Other licensed New Jersey attorneys in good standing, subject to completion of (i) six hours of pretrial/settlement conference training that includes two hours of observation with an experienced landlord/tenant settlor, and (ii) five hours of substantive and procedural training in landlord/tenant law.

2. All services of landlord/tenant settlers shall be provided without compensation.

For the Court,



Chief Justice

Dated: September 30, 2020