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Subject: [External]Remote court proceedings

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I commend the AOC on its forward-looking approach to deviating from our history of all court proceedings being held in person.

There have been and continue to be many proceedings that can be conducted more expeditiously, efficiently, and economically via remote appearances and even via telephone in some instances compared to in-person proceedings, such as motion arguments, case management and other status conferences, uncontested divorce hearings, applications for postponements, etc.

COVID has shown that justice can be enhanced by such 21st Century approaches to the consuming public.

I can personally attest that my clients have saved legal fees by not paying me to commute to and from courthouses and by my working on other matters in my office while awaiting a judge to call his or her case for argument, conferences, uncontested divorce hearings, etc. In that fashion I have been able to work on other clients' matters while waiting for a judge to call a scheduled case. This way I am not held hostage in a courthouse, unable in almost all cases to do anything but sit by unproductively awaiting the call of the case which brought me to the courthouse and billing my client for the consumption of my time while sitting idly by.

I have benefited, and, most importantly, my clients have benefited. They, too, have been able in many instances to “go about their other business” while waiting for a judge to call their case.

I commend and urge the AOC to continue to consider such efficient and cost-saving virtual court appearances in appropriate instances as we move out of COVID-19 but benefit from the lessons it has taught us.

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