

GLENN A. GRANT, J.A.D. Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

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July 8, 2013

Marcus Rayner, Executive Director New Jersey Lawsuit Reform Alliance 128 West State Street, 3rd Floor Trenton, New Jersey 08608

Subj: NJ Rules of Evidence (your 7/1/13 letter to the Chief Justice)

Dear Mr. Rayner:

I am writing in response to your July 1, 2013 letter to Chief Justice Rabner and the Supreme Court. In that letter, written on behalf of the New Jersey Lawsuit Reform Alliance, the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey, the HealthCare Institute of New Jersey, the Medical Society of New Jersey, the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, the New Jersey Hospital Association, and the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, you requested that the Court either (a) immediately adopt specific amendments to NJRE 104 and 702 or (b) direct the Evidence Rules Committee to report back with its recommendations on an expedited out-of-cycle basis. This letter is to provide you with a status report as to this matter.

Prior to receipt of your July 1 letter the Court had concluded its consideration of the Evidence Rules Committee's 2011-2013 report, including the Committee's inquiry as to whether it should once again undertake a detailed study of N.J.R.E. 702, Testimony by Experts. At the conclusion of that consideration, the Court asked that the Committee provide it with a report on whether, in the Committee's view, current N.J.R.E. 702 and related case law are so unclear that New Jersey's trial courts are applying inconsistent standards in admitting expert testimony. The Court asked that the Committee also include in that report its thoughts as to whether current law is creating other problems, such as attracting a disproportionate number of negligence cases to the State, especially mass tort cases, that might otherwise be filed in other jurisdictions. The Court asked that the Committee provide the Court with this report within one year.

Very truly yours,

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.

Acting Administrative Director

CC:

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner Supreme Court Steven D. Bonville, Chief of Staff Mark Neary, Supreme Court Clerk Robert W. Smith, Director Debra Jenkins, Assistant Director Gurpreet M. Singh, Special Assistant Carol A. Welsch, Chief