

NOTICE TO THE BAR

SOMERSET COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT PILOT PROGRAM TO EXPLORE EVENING CALENDARS FOR LANDLORD/TENANT MATTERS

As authorized by the Supreme Court, the Somerset County Superior Court will conduct a pilot program for evening calendars for landlord/tenant matters, starting June 11, 2019. The program is part of the Judiciary's ongoing efforts to facilitate access to and participation in court proceedings. The option of evening court hours is intended to enable participation by parties who may face obstacles to appearing during regular court hours.

The Somerset County Superior Court Special Civil Part currently schedules landlord/tenant matters on the first and third Friday of each month, starting at 9:00 a.m. These regular calendars will continue.

During the pilot program, Somerset County will offer two additional calendars, on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Some cases will be randomly assigned to the evening calendars. Either party may object to the evening calendar assignment and request rescheduling to a regular daytime calendar. Objections must be submitted to SomLT.mailbox@njcourts.gov, on notice to the other party, at least three business days in advance of the scheduled hearing date and will be decided by the Supervising Special Civil Part judge.

In addition to random assignment of cases, tenants and landlords may request to be rescheduled from a daytime calendar to an evening calendar. Requests must be on notice to the other party and submitted at least three business days in advance by email to SomLT.mailbox@njcourts.gov or by contacting the Special Civil Part office at (908) 332-7700.

During the pilot implementation, the summons issued to tenants will include the attached explanatory notice. Parties and attorneys in landlord/tenant cases may be asked to complete a questionnaire regarding their participation or non-participation in the evening calendars. The pilot program may be adjusted over the coming months, based in part on feedback received from attorneys and parties.

As noted, this is a pilot program and may be adjusted over the coming months to refine and improve the process. Questions may be directed to Somerset County Civil Division Manager Joseph A. Bolles at (908) 332-7700 x13044 or Joseph.Bolles@njcourts.gov.

Yolanda Ciccone, Assignment Judge
Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage

Dated: May 8, 2019