SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK APPELLATE DIVISION: FIRST DEPARTMENT

In the Matter of the Amendment of the Rules of the Appellate Division, First Department

ORDER

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, First Department hereby amends the following rule of the Court, effective immediately (additions in text are indicated by underlined italics and deleted materials in brackets).

603.7 (e) Contingent Fees in Claims and Actions for Personal Injury and Wrongful Death

(3) Such percentage shall be computed by one of the following two methods, to be selected by the client in the retainer agreement or letter of engagement: (i) on the net sum recovered after deducting from the amount recovered expenses and disbursements for expert testimony and investigative or other services properly chargeable to the enforcement of the claim or prosecution of the action; or (ii) in the event that the attorney agrees to pay costs and expenses of the action pursuant to Judiciary Law §488(2)(d), on the gross sum recovered before deducting expenses and disbursements. The retainer agreement or letter of engagement shall describe these alternative methods, explain the financial consequences of each, and clearly indicate the client's selection. In computing the fee, the costs as taxed, including interest upon a judgment, shall be deemed part of the amount recovered. For the following or similar items there shall be no deduction in computing such percentages: liens, assignments or claims in favor of hospitals, for medical care and treatment of doctors and nurses, or of self-insurers or insurance carriers.

Dated: New York, New York March 6, 2014

For the Court:

Presiding Justice