



# NOTICE TO THE BAR

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**New York State  
Unified Court System**

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**Hon. Paula L. Feroletto  
Administrative Judge**

**For Immediate Release:  
April 10, 2020**

## **VIRTUAL CHAMBERS OPENING IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURTS REMAIN OPEN FOR ESSENTIAL PROCEEDINGS**

Hon. Paula L. Feroletto, Administrative Judge for the Eighth Judicial District announces that effective April 13, 2020, virtual court access will be expanded. Judge Feroletto states, "As we continue to navigate through the Covid-19 public health emergency, the Eighth Judicial District is expanding the "virtual courtroom" model for "essential" matters to a model for "virtual chambers" for conferencing some non-essential open and pending civil matters. This will entail the court scheduling virtual conferences with counsel on selected matters using Skype for Business or standard phone conferencing. In this first phase of the initiative, the court will be selecting appropriate cases. Counsel and parties may reach out to chambers and request a conference, but the decision to schedule a conference will be in the sole discretion of the judge. "Essential" matters will continue to be handled in the process already established for "virtual courtrooms." Per the Order of the Chief Administrative Judge dated April 8, 2020 (AO/85/20), "[n]o new nonessential matters may be filed until further notice; nor may additional papers be filed by parties in pending nonessential matters. The court shall file such orders in essential and nonessential matters as it deems appropriate."

Thank you for your cooperation. Chambers and all court staff are working diligently to expand this process as quickly as possible to address all matters. This is only the first step.

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