

Appellate Division of the Supreme Court First Judicial Department

AD1 2.0 – First Department Operations During the November and December Terms

Updated November 16, 2020

Appeals – Oral Arguments

In light of the continuing public health emergency in New York State, recent adverse trends in coronavirus transmission rates, and the Governor's most recent directive limiting congregation of groups in public and private locations, **commencing on November 25, 2020**, the Appellate Division, First Department will hold **all oral arguments remotely via Microsoft Teams. There will be no in-person oral arguments until further notice.** The Court will be holding oral argument three days per week, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. If necessary, arguments will also be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday mornings.

The online oral argument survey is suspended until further notice.

Please note that once a matter has been calendared, there will be no adjournments. If a party cannot appear for oral argument as scheduled on the calendar, the matter will be taken on submission as far as that party is concerned.

Requests for Oral Argument. Once a matter is calendared, the parties are required to make requests for oral argument by email. (This directive is in addition to the rule requirement that argument requests be stated on the briefs). The requests for oral argument shall be made in advance, no later than one week prior to the calendar date, by emailing the Court at AD1OralArgument@nycourts.gov, with an e-mailed copy to opposing counsel or self-represented litigant. A completed notice of appearance with the contact information, including e-mail address, of the attorney who will appear remotely, shall be attached to the request.

If an out-of-state attorney has been granted leave to appear pro hac vice, a notice of appearance is required for both the New York attorney of record and the out-of-state attorney, together with a copy of the letter from the Court granting the pro hac vice application.

When a request for oral argument is made in a non-enumerated matter, the request should be accompanied by a letter specifying the reasons why oral argument should be granted.

When making an oral argument request, please indicate the name of the matter, the argument date, the appellate case number and the **time needed** for oral argument, **not the time desired**. Parties will be advised as to whether the Court has granted oral argument. The request should not be made until a matter has been calendared for a particular term and date. Failure to timely and properly request oral argument will result in the matter being heard on submission.

As customary, oral arguments will be livestreamed on the Court's website. Only counsel and self-represented litigants who are arguing will be permitted attend the remote oral arguments.

Screening Before Entering Courthouse

Prior to entering the courthouse, all persons will be subject to COVID-19 screening and temperature checks. Persons (a) subject to the quarantine restrictions on travelers contained in Governor Cuomo's [Executive Order No. 205](#); or (b) experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19, including fever, a new cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, muscle or body aches, vomiting and diarrhea, or a new loss of taste or smell; or (c) who have tested positive or had close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days will not be permitted to enter the courthouse.

Facial Covering: All persons who enter the courthouse are required to (a) wear a mask or facial covering at all times and (b) comply with social distancing guidelines and directives of the court officers. Please note that vented masks (masks with exhalation valves or vents) may not be worn in the courthouse.

Filing Deadlines Reinstated

By [order](#) entered May 8, 2020, the Court rescinded its prior order which suspended filing deadlines and reinstated the filing deadlines for the remaining 2020 terms.

Hard Copy Filing

The requirement that hard copy records, appendices, briefs and motions be filed continues to be suspended until further notice.

Electronic Filing

Matters Subject to Mandatory E-filing

Effective July 27, 2020, all matters before the First Department, except original proceedings and attorney matters, are subject to mandatory e-filing via NYSCEF in accordance with the procedural and electronic filing rules of the Court. For additional information on the e-filing requirements, please [click here](#).

Original Proceedings and Attorney Matters

All filings, including petitions, motions and applications, made in connection with original proceedings and attorney matters shall be submitted electronically via the Digital Submission portal in NYSCEF. For additional information on the Digital Submission portal, please [click here](#).

Admission of Attorneys to the Bar

The Court's Committee on Character and Fitness is processing admission applications. Applications and other documents shall be transmitted electronically until further notice. Candidates for admission will be interviewed and the admission ceremonies will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams until further notice.

The Court has resumed the issuance of certificates of good standing. Instructions for obtaining a certificate of good standing are posted on the webpage of the [Committee on Character and Fitness](#).

Effective July 22, 2020, the Court of Appeals established the Temporary Authorization Program which allows eligible graduates of ABA-approved law schools to apply for the temporary authorization to practice law. Additional information is posted on the website of the Committee on Character and Fitness.

Attorney Grievance Matters

The Attorney Grievance Committee is fully operational. Complaints, pleadings and all other submissions shall be transmitted electronically to the Committee until further notice. Additional information is posted on the [Attorney Grievance Committee webpage](#).

Pre-argument Conference Program

The pre-argument conference program has resumed operations and remote conferences are being held via Microsoft Teams and other virtual platforms.