

TO: CIVIL COURTS COMMITTEE
FROM: Tina M. Wells & Robert H. Wolff, Co-Chairpersons
DATE: April 23, 2019
RE: Update

The Civil Courts Committee met with the Administrative Judge Doris Gonzalez on April 18, 2019.

Motor Vehicle Filings have been reduced from 2018 (Jan thru March). Judges Brigantti and Higgitt continue to work diligently to issue decisions and move their calendars. Please be reminded about Judge Brigantti's staggered conference calendar and her rules which can be found in her Part. Discussion was had about the fact that a third judge would be helpful to off load the high volume however, Judge Gonzalez does not want to remove a trial judge. Consideration is being given to this situation and will continue to develop.

Honorable Eddie McShane, who is currently sitting in matrimonial, has been chosen to head up the new commercial part. Rules are being developed and the part will be up and running shortly. More to come on this shortly.

A replacement for Judge McShane in matrimonial has not yet been named. Presently, Judge Alpert is handling matrimonial matters.

Be aware that there are Judicial Conference/Seminars commencing the last week in June and first two week in July that will take Judges out of the Courthouse intermittently.

Judge Gonzalez is attempting to restructure the law department and implement new goals that should result in more and faster decisions on motions. Details to be announced in the future.

Summary jury trials have increased from this period last year. Judge Gonzalez urges attorneys to report to STP Part Room 607 at 9:30 a.m. when a summary jury trial is scheduled to ensure a speedier assignment.