



AN UPDATE ON NEW YORK COURTS

In response to the unprecedented situation caused by COVID-19, New York Courts have taken several precautions in order to comply with state “social distancing” orders.

- As of April 6, 2020, New York State Courts have instituted operations so that all essential and emergency court matters throughout the State will be heard virtually, by telephone or video via Microsoft’s platform Skype for Business. The New York State Unified Court System has put out [a guide](#) on using Skype for Business.

All non-essential court functions have been suspended by Administrative Order. Accordingly, all non-essential court filings have been prohibited. However, Chief Judge DiFiore will release a plan to expand virtual operation beyond essential and emergency matters. As part of that plan, compliance and settlement conferences in pending matters will be conducted by video or telephone. Additionally, judges will decide fully-submitted motions.

- The Appellate Division, First Department is still accepting the e-filing of papers. For appeals not perfected by March 16, 2020, deadlines in the First Department are suspended until further directive of the Court. For appeals perfected by March 16, 2020, the deadlines set by the Court’s term calendar and motion practice rules remain in effect, but extensions may be granted up to April 19, 2020. Adjourned matters will be re-calendared for a later term.

The Appellate Divisions, Second, Third, and Fourth Departments have suspended all deadlines. Oral arguments are cancelled. However, the Departments are still accepting the e-filing of papers. The Justices continue to hear and adjudicate appeals and motions. Decisions will continue to be released but the schedule may vary.

- The Court of Appeals will continue to issue decisions on previously filed pending matters. The Court will not hear oral argument during its April/May session.

New York Courts are doing all they can to make themselves available remotely, and Oved & Oved LLP will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves. We will hopefully see progression will all litigation matters soon.

CLIENT ALERT

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