



Superior Court
Providence County

Licht Judicial Complex
250 Benefit Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

May 10, 2021

To Members of the Rhode Island Bar:

As a result of the pandemic, the Court was forced to adapt quickly to a new set of social standards in order to protect and preserve the health, safety and welfare of court users and court employees. Specifically, this required implementing measures to restrict crowds, e.g., shifting hearings and other proceedings to the greatest extent possible to remote access, while at the same time safely providing necessary in-person access to justice for the most critical matters. The Superior Court has never ceased operations and in fact has undertaken significant measures to allow jury trials to continue on a limited basis in Providence County while the COVID-19 restrictions remain in place.

Given these limitations and our current inability to schedule more than 2 jury trials at any one time, the Court is offering a ***Mediation Program*** to assist counsel and their clients. Counsel may request that cases currently assigned to the trial calendar in Providence County be mediated by one of the justices currently assigned to the trial calendar. Members of the bar who are interested in pursuing this option, should complete the *COVID-19 Mediation Submission Form* found on the Superior Court website and send it to Courtroom4@courts.ri.gov with a copy to MSmith@courts.ri.gov. A one-page summary of the case must be attached to the mediation form. Thereafter your case will be assigned to a particular justice who will contact counsel to discuss the manner and means by which the mediation will be conducted.

We are hopeful that this option will provide fruitful/productive opportunity to resolve trial-ready matters in a timely and expeditious manner. Should you have further questions or concerns, please contact Mary Smith at the above email or 222-6149.

SIGNED:

/s/

Alice Bridget Gibney
Presiding Justice