

## NOTICE TO THE BAR

### MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING IN THE TAX COURT

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 8, 2015

In its August 10, 2015 Order the Supreme Court approved a two-phase approach to implement mandatory electronic filing for all attorneys representing parties in local property tax matters. Phase I became effective September 15, 2015, making it mandatory for certain law firms to submit all documents in local property tax matters electronically through the New Jersey Judiciary's eCourts system.

As set forth in the attached November 19, 2015 Order the Supreme Court approved Phase II to become effective December 8, 2015 requiring all attorneys to file all local property tax pleadings and other documents, including adjournment requests, electronically through eCourts. Beginning January 1, 2016, the Tax Court will distribute all docketing notices, trial notices, orders, opinions, judgments and other documents to all attorneys through uploading to eCourts. The Court will continue to send paper copies to self-represented parties.

In order to file documents electronically and view electronic case jackets, attorneys must first register with the Judiciary. Instructions on the three-step registration and use of eCourts, as well as the Attorney Access Request Form, are available at [njcourts.com/eCourts](http://njcourts.com/eCourts).

#### **Phase II**

1. As of December 8, 2015, all attorneys will be required to file all local property tax pleadings and other documents, including adjournment requests, electronically via eCourts.
2. Attorneys who file paper documents that should have been eFiled will have their paper documents returned and stamped "Received But Not Filed – Must be eFiled via eCourts." Notice will include that the attorney must register for eCourts and eFile documents within 15 days to retain the original filed date.
3. As of January 1, 2016, the Tax Court will distribute all docketing notices, trial notices, orders, opinions, judgments and other documents through uploading to eCourts. The court will continue to mail hard copies of these documents to self-represented parties.
4. Exemptions from these requirements may be granted by leave of court if extraordinary circumstances prevent the attorney from utilizing eCourts to file a document or receive documents from the court.



Patrick DeAlmeida, P.J.T.C.

DATED: November 19, 2015

## SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS the Court's August 10, 2015 Order approved a two-phase approach to implement mandatory electronic filing in the Tax Court for all attorneys representing parties in local property tax matters, with Phase I making it mandatory effective September 15, 2015 for certain law firms to submit all documents in local property tax matters electronically through the New Jersey Judiciary's eCourts system;

And WHEREAS the partial mandatory program effected by Phase I has been successfully implemented;

IT IS ORDERED pursuant to N.J. Const. (1947), Art. VI, §2, par. 3, that effective December 8, 2015 and until further order, Phase II of mandatory electronic filing in the Tax Court is authorized as follows:

1. As of December 8, 2015, all attorneys will be required to file all local property tax pleadings and other documents, including adjournment requests, electronically in the Tax Court via eCourts.
2. Attorneys who file paper documents that should have been eFiled will have their paper documents returned and stamped "Received But Not Filed – Must be eFiled via eCourts." Notice will include that the attorney must register for eCourts and eFile documents within 15 days to retain the original filed date.
3. As of January 1, 2016, the Tax Court will distribute all docketing notices, trial notices, orders, opinions, judgments and other documents through uploading to eCourts. The court will continue to mail hard copies of these documents to self-represented parties.
4. Exemptions from these requirements may be granted by leave of court if extraordinary circumstances prevent the attorney from utilizing eCourts to file a document or receive documents from the court.
5. The supplemented and relaxed Rules of Court as provided for in the Court's January 21, 2015 and August 10, 2015 Orders remain in effect.

For the Court



Chief Justice

Dated: November 19, 2015