NOTICE TO THE BAR

CRIMINAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE REPORT ON DISTRIBUTION OF WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS TO THE JURY – PUBLICATION FOR COMMENT

This notice publishes for written comment the March 28, 2012 off-cycle report from the Supreme Court <u>Criminal Practice Committee regarding the distribution of written instructions to the jury</u>. The Criminal Practice Committee reviewed this subject as requested by the Court in <u>State v. O'Brien</u>, 200 <u>N.J.</u> 520, 541 (2009). The Committee in this report recommends amendments to Rules 1:8-7 and 1:8-8.

The Court in <u>O'Brien</u> asked both the Civil Practice Committee and the Criminal Practice Committee to examine this subject. The Civil Practice Committee's recommendations are set forth in its 2010-2012 Report, which is currently pending comment as published by Notice to the Bar dated February 1, 2012, with the comment period having been extended by Notice to the Bar dated March 29, 2012.

This Report also will be available for downloading on the Judiciary's Internet web site at http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/reports2012/index.htm.

Please send any comments on the Criminal Practice Committee's Report on Distribution of Written Instructions to the Jury in writing by **Wednesday, April 25, 2012** to:

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D. Acting Administrative Director of the Courts Rules Comments Hughes Justice Complex; P.O. Box 037 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0037

Comments may also be submitted via Internet e-mail to the following address: Comments.Mailbox@judiciary.state.nj.us.

The Supreme Court will not consider comments submitted anonymously. Thus, those submitting comments by mail should include their name and address (and those submitting comments by e-mail should include their name and e-mail address). Comments submitted are subject to public disclosure.

As indicated in the other Notices issued in the current rules cycle, the Supreme Court will be acting on the reports and recommendations in June/July 2012, with any rule amendments likely to become effective in September 2012.

/s/ Glenn A. Grant

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D. Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: April 2, 2012