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June 15, 2012

HAND DELIVER

The Honorable John W. Herron
 Administrative Judge
 First Judicial District of Pennsylvania
 Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas
 Room 300 City Hall
 Philadelphia, PA 19107

Re: General Court Regulation No. 2012-01
 In Re: Mass Tort and Asbestos Programs

Dear Judge Herron:

I write to join the comments offered by Laura Feldman, Esquire on behalf of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association. Specifically, I endorse Ms. Feldman's request that the portions of the Regulation which are the subject of her letter of March 5, 2012 be withdrawn pending further consideration by experienced attorneys and Judges most familiar with the operation of the Mass Tort Program.

More generally, I also wish to express my concern about the tone of the regulation, which seems critical of the Mass Tort Program and the Judges responsible for administering it. This view would appear to credit the rants of organizations like the American Tort Reform Association, which have unfairly criticized our court system based on unsupported claims of unfairness, and in furtherance of their own agenda. The truth, known to the lawyers who actually practice in the First Judicial District, is that we have a wonderful, progressive case management system that does a terrific job of disposing of cases in an efficient, timely and fair manner. Our system, and the Judges who are responsible for it, should be complimented for what they have achieved, rather than have their work described in such a negative fashion.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my comments about this administrative regulation.

Respectfully yours,



Alan M. Feldman

AMF/dk

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