

O'Donnell, Shanna

From: Bellis, Barbara
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2019 4:14 PM
To: Del Ciampo, Joseph
Subject: FW: Hybrid appearances

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Hi Joe. Hope you are well. Here is the update on our hybrid appearance agenda item.

From: Albis, Michael A. <Michael.Albis@jud.ct.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2019 3:53 PM
To: Bellis, Barbara <Barbara.Bellis@jud.ct.gov>
Cc: Adelman, Gerard <Gerard.Adelman@jud.ct.gov>; Greenfield, Johanna <Johanna.Greenfield@jud.ct.gov>; Heller, Donna <Donna.Heller@jud.ct.gov>; Knight, Joseph <Joseph.Knight@jud.ct.gov>; Olear, Leslie <Leslie.Olear@jud.ct.gov>
Subject: Hybrid appearances

Dear Judge Bellis,

I've now emailed the members of our former hybrid appearance rule working group and received responses from the great majority of them.

The general consensus of the group is that the change in e-filing to allow parties in family cases to access the documents in their paperless files will likely reduce, but not eliminate, the number of parties who file self-representation appearances in addition to the appearances of their attorneys. In our experience, a desire to access documents is not the only reason parties file these appearances.

In addition, given the potentially long active life of a typical family file, even if the practice stopped completely today, there would remain in the system for many years countless active cases in which hybrid appearances have already been filed.

For these reasons, the working group's consensus is to urge consideration of the proposed new rule despite the e-filing change. (Of course, the comments in the proposed commentary referring to the need to file an appearance to gain access to documents should be deleted if that is no longer to be the case.)

Judge Abrams has indicated that he would not have a problem with the rule from a civil standpoint, but in any event the working group's proposed draft rule would appear in the Practice Book chapter regarding family rules and is not intended to apply to non-family cases.

Thank you for the opportunity for our group to have this additional input. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss further.