

Second Department Expands Operations as a Virtual Court

In view of the social distancing requirements necessitated by the public health crisis, and the obligations of the courts to respect the New York pause urged by the Governor, the Appellate Division, Second Department, has had to transition into a virtual court. Due in no small part to the tireless efforts of our outstanding technology staff, the Court was able to continue with existing calendars of appeals through April 2, 2020. Those appeals were either submitted or were argued via Skype. In addition, the Court has been hearing essential matters, including motions, appeals and emergency applications.

With our transition to a virtual court model nearly complete, the Second Department is now in the position to act more robustly. We are actively processing attorney admission applications. On April 14, 2020, the Court conducted an inaugural virtual admission ceremony, which went off without a hitch. More such ceremonies will be held this week and next. Additional candidates for admission will be advised of the dates for their ceremonies. Candidates not yet ready for admission will be expedited through the Character and Fitness process.

As we settle into our new way of life, we are expanding our virtual service to our litigants. In that regard, we have begun to publish calendars for April 27 through May 8. Those calendars, as they are completed, may be found on our website at <https://www.nycourts.gov/courts/ad2/calendar.shtml>. All matters on those calendars shall either be marked submitted or orally argued via Skype. Requests for Skype arguments **on matters that have already been calendared** must be made in advance of the argument date by e-mailing the Court at ad2clerk@nycourts.gov. Please be sure to copy all counsel and self-represented litigants on any e-mail correspondence you have with the Court.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this very difficult time.