

BURLINGTON VICINAGE BENCH/BAR COMPACT

WHEREAS, the Burlington County Bar Association ("Bar") and the Burlington Vicinage of the New Jersey Superior Court ("Court") have adopted policies which recognize the need for their joint participation in the management of the court system in the Vicinage; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of those policies requires the establishment of a joint management structure and the public undertaking of appropriate commitments.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree that:

- 1) The Court will not undertake any new program or adopt any new procedure affecting the Bar without prior exposure to the Bar and prior opportunity for discussion by the Bar.
- 2) The Court will keep the Bar informed as to all of its activities which affect the Bar.
- 3) The Court will undertake educational programs designed to acquaint the Bar with the administrative organization, management techniques, and management philosophy of the court system.
- 4) The Bar will keep the Court informed as to all of its activities which affect the Court.
- 5) The Bar will not undertake any new program or procedure affecting the Court without first exposing it to the Court and providing it with an opportunity for comment.
- 6) The Bar will undertake educational programs designed to acquaint the Court with its administrative organization, its management techniques, and its management philosophy.
- 7) Each party will designate one or more persons in each of its administrative offices to act as liaison officers for the purpose of maintaining a continuous flow of information between the parties.
- 8) The parties will form and maintain a joint committee, to be known as the Bench-Bar Management Committee, for the purpose of carrying out the terms of this Compact.

The Committee shall be composed of:

The Bar: President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Vice President, State Bar Trustee, and Bar Association Executive Director.

The Court: Assignment Judge and Trial Court Administrator and an individual designated as liaison to the Bar Association Executive Director.

(and)

One vacant seat for each party, to be occupied for the purposes of particular meetings by a lawyer and a judge/court staff liaison appointed for the duration of the meeting and selected by reason of their knowledge and experience with reference to topics to be discussed at the meeting.

The Committee shall meet quarterly at such times and places as it considers to be agreeable. The Committee Chair shall alternate each meeting between the President of the Bar and the Assignment Judge.

The Committee shall have no authority to bind either party. Its purpose is to provide a permanent structure for the continuous exchange of information of interest to the parties, to further the relationship of the parties and their joint concerns, and to promote the philosophy reflected in this agreement.

- 9) The value of this Compact lies in the good will which it expresses and the good intentions of the parties. While it is intended to remain in force indefinitely, it may therefore be terminated by either party at will.

THE BURLINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

BY: Megan Knowlton Balne

Megan Knowlton Balne, President of the BCBA

Date 5/7/2025

THE BURLINGTON COUNTY VICINAGE OF THE NEW JERSEY SUPERIOR COURT

BY: T. Cook

Hon. Terrence Cook, Assignment Judge

Date 5/7/2025

Original dated April 1985
Amended February 2003
Amended July 2008
Amended August 2016
Amended July 2019
Amended May 2025

