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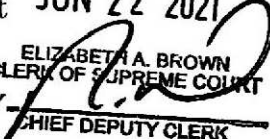
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FILED

June 21, 2021

Elizabeth A. Brown, Clerk of the Nevada Supreme Court
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

JUN 22 2021
ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY 
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

Re: ADKT 581 – Best Practices for Virtual Advocacy in Nevada’s Courts.

Dear Nevada Supreme Court Justices and Ms. Brown,

Please consider these written comments concerning ADKT 581 and the use of remote or virtual hearings for court proceedings. I am interested in serving on the Commission to Study Best Practices for Virtual Advocacy in Nevada’s Court, and would like to appear at the Court’s public hearing on its petition on June 28, 2021.

The last 15 months have presented unique challenges but have also provided great insight on the use of virtual proceedings in criminal cases. My experience with these matters is based operation of an office with 18 attorneys, which never closed during the pandemic. I have gained insight on the benefits of virtual appearances for some proceedings, and the drawbacks faced in others. My hope is that the Commission and the Nevada Supreme Court will adopt a nuanced approach, at least in criminal cases, which addresses technological needs and limitations, the confrontation rights of an accused person, impacts on remote proceedings on the attorney-client relationship, and the benefits of having virtual proceedings for routine matters or urgent matters which should not be postponed until an in-person appearance is possible.

Thank you for your consideration of new rules and for my request to serve on the Commission.

JoNell Thomas
Clark County Special Public Defender

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