New York State
Commission to Examine Solo and Small Firm Practice
140 Grand Street, Suite 704 ● White Plains, New York 10601
Tel: (914) 997-7980 ● Fax: (914) 997-7781 ● Email: SoloSmallFirmPractice@courts.state.ny.us

SURVEY OF SOLO AND SMALL FIRM PRACTITIONERS

1. Do you have any suggestions for improving the administration of civil and/or criminal cases (such as streamlining court processes, conferences, discovery, or trials)?

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2. Do you have any opinions regarding any one of the following topics: (a) utilization of pre-trial and preliminary conferences; (b) staggered calendar calls; (c) diversifying calendar parts by case subject matter; (d) court mandated mediation; (e) uniform and consistent statewide rules and forms; (f) scheduling orders; and/or (g) management of discovery?

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3. What quality of life issues do you face? What can the courts do to improve the quality of life for solo and small firm practitioners?

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4. What top three costs of practicing law most significantly affect your overhead (e.g., malpractice insurance, retention of experts, etc.)? Do you have any suggestions on how these costs can be controlled?

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5. Do you think the Office of Court Administration should provide you with information regarding recent legislation, rules and regulatory updates including those affecting attorneys, case updates, court and judicial information, and uniform forms?

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6. Have state- issued regulations or local court rules had a positive or negative impact on your practice? If negative, what would you suggest to ameliorate any future negative impact?

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7. What problems, if any, have you experienced in meeting your Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) obligations?

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8. Where do you obtain your MCLE training? Has your practice been affected by the expense and time required for MCLE?

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9. Do you have arrangements for practice coverage in the event of your death, disability, illness, vacations, or scheduling conflicts? If not, would you seek guidance from bar associations, the courts, or others to assist you?

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10. Have you had an arbitration pursuant to the Attorney-Client Fee Dispute Resolution program? If yes, please describe any benefits or problems you experienced.

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11. Have you litigated in courts which require or permit e-filing of documents? If so, did you opt out of e-filing? If not, what advantages or disadvantages did you encounter?

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12. Do you believe mandatory e-filing would positively or negatively affect your practice? Please explain.

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13. Do you provide organized pro bono legal services? If yes, how many hours per month?

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14. Do you believe pro bono delivery of services has a positive or negative impact on your practice? Please explain.

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15. Please state: the number of attorneys in your firm _____; the number of support staff in your firm _____; your areas of concentration _____; the counties in which you practice _____; and your average annual premium for malpractice insurance _____.

16. Please add any other comments you wish. _____

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Thank you for your time. Please return your form to:

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