



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
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KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

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*Commissioner*

### MEMORANDUM

To: All Judges and Attorneys

From: Peter J. Calderone, Director and Chief Judge

Re: COURTS IV

Date: June 7, 2012

New Jersey was the first state to have a fully automated workers' compensation case management system providing a high level of access to case scheduling and information. This program has been implemented through various phases of COURTS and the COURTS-on-line systems.

This month we plan to introduce the next transition in COURTS which will provide additional upgrades and further enhancements. A key concern that will be addressed by COURTS IV will be a transfer from older computer language applications that separated agency internal usage from external customers that is no longer fully supported to a web based unified system for all users. In stages further upgrades will allow the electronic filing of more documents including motions and access to additional case information. Phase IV has been a long and detailed process which has been managed by internal Division and Department staff without outside consultant general contracts to ensure that the system was cost-effective and met our specialized needs.

You will be provided information in the next few weeks on the changes including system access guidance. There will also be periods when current COURTS will not be operational while the new program is set in place. We have tested the new system with over 400 participants and have received overwhelming positive reviews with most comments finding the program easier to navigate, user-friendly and better organized.

COURT IV is one part of the technology advancements that have taken place in the last few years. Currently over 70% of all documents that can be electronically filed are so filed, nearly 100% of case lists are e-mailed, all court facilities have Wi-Fi access, the large majority of court orders are typed generally utilizing the interactive forms rather than rip-out orders and most ongoing workers' compensation participants are COURTS-on-line subscribers.

We are also constantly upgrading our web-site, one of the most visited Department sites, with relevant cases, statute, court rules, forms and other information that allows case parties and the general public a complete source of materials to understand and utilize the New Jersey workers' compensation program.

We greatly appreciate the support and assistance from many judges, attorneys and law firm staff that helped in the development and testing of COURTS IV.

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