

Below is information from Bronx County Bar Association about Bronx County Courts, please read in its entirety:

The Civil Court Committee met with Administrative Judge Gonzalez on December 3, 2020.

Judge Gonzalez recently met with Judge Marks and Judge Silver advocating for additional judges to be assigned to the Bronx in light of the number we are losing due to retirement and those not being recertified. Judge Gonzalez hopes to have at least 3 new Judges (Cohen, Perez, Wilson) but cannot be certain that this will ultimately occur. We anticipate having further news on this front towards the end of December.

Microsoft Teams is in full swing. All attorneys should endeavor to familiarize themselves with this platform and download the program in advance of a conference. We have attached instructions here. It is easy to use and makes all the difference when conducting conferences and motions; calling in over the phone is making things more difficult.

Motions and Orders to Show Cause that are not emergent should not be made, regardless of the underlying reason for doing so. An Order to Show Cause for trial subpoenas, for example, is not emergent and only forces Judges to take time away from conferences and other emergency applications. Please make every effort to confine motion practice to emergent matters. Judge Gonzalez made clear that these motions will not be perceived favorably given the existing heavy burden placed on the Court by the pandemic and limited Court staff.

In the same vein, when requesting a conference or making a motion, the Court must have all necessary contact information (i.e. names, email address and phone number) for ALL parties. The Court will not entertain a motion or Order to Show Cause if all parties have not been given notice of the hearing date.

On December 18, 2020, Judges Silver and Gonzalez will be rolling out a PILOT program with GEICO. This program will identify GEICO cases already in STP for conference. The Court has advised that approximately 36 cases will be noticed for this program. The aim is to settle the matters or submit those that cannot be settled to the ADR program or to a bench or summary jury trial. If your case has been selected, you will receive a Microsoft Teams invite/link. Note that if the case does not settle on 12/18/20, you will receive notification of assignment to a Judge and the trial coordinator will set a date for the trial. At this time, given the fact this is a new pilot program, the specific details are still being clarified. The goal will be to have all the Judges participate in the summary jury trials as opposed to a select few.

Look for the roll out of the universal Case Scheduling Order for motor vehicle cases in January 2021. This will be universal across all boroughs.

The Court is in the process of redistributing the case inventories of those Judges we are losing at the end of the year. Many of the Judges have taken their annual leave and have relinquished their inventories. Please be patient. The redistribution will result in Judges being assigned approximately 200 additional cases to their existing case load, which is another reason to avoid making unnecessary motions.