

July 1, 2020

Dear Fee Dispute Resolution Program Participants, Arbitration Panelists and Mediators:

At its meeting on April 17, 2020, the Bar's Board of Governors considered the continued operation of the Fee Dispute Resolution Program (FDRP), in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Board of Governors amended the FDRP Rules to include Rule 6.9 which states,

"General Counsel may require that all fee arbitration and mediation proceedings take place by videoconference, or such other means that allows for remote participation of all parties, if General Counsel determines that remote participation is necessary to comply with local, state, or national public health orders or recommendations."

Pursuant to new Rule 6.9, I have determined that remote participation is necessary to comply with public health orders or recommendations.

Because of public health concerns, in pending matters, Fee Arbitration Panelists and Mediators should not schedule any *in-person* Fee Dispute Resolution hearings or mediations until further notice. The bar will notify all arbitrators and mediators when the bar establishes a platform available to enable remote participation in Fee Dispute Resolution matters. Until a bar platform is established, arbitrators and mediators may order *remote* participation in arbitration or mediation using their own preferred platforms and accounts.

If you have any questions regarding this notice or pending matters, please contact Fee Dispute Program administrator Jerri Shay at jshay@osbar.org.

Thank you for your patience during this time. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



Amber Hollister
General Counsel
Ext. 312
Email: gc@osbar.org