

NOTICE TO THE BAR

RE: WAIVER OF AFFIDAVIT OF MERIT CONFERENCE

The Conference of Civil Presiding Judges has determined that counsel may consent to waive the Affidavit of Merit conference required in professional malpractice cases by *Ferreira v. Rancocas Orthopedic Associations*, 178 N.J. 144 (2003) and *Knorr v. Smeal*, 178 N.J. 169 (2003) when the Affidavit of Merit has been provided by plaintiff and all defendants have waived any objections to its adequacy. The Supreme Court has been made aware of and concurs in that determination by the Conference.

In such instances, counsel should submit a proposed consent order prior to the scheduled Affidavit of Merit conference, with that consent order indicating that all counsel agree to waive the conference, acknowledging that the Affidavit of Merit has been provided, and stating that the defendants waive any objections to the Affidavit's adequacy.

Richard J. Williams, J.A.D.
Administrative Director of the Courts
Dated: May 25, 2004