

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF THE CREATION OF A
COMMISSION TO STUDY BEST
PRACTICES FOR VIRTUAL ADVOCACY IN
NEVADA'S COURTS

ADKT 581

FILED

MAY 19 2021

ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY 
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

PETITION

James W. Hardesty, Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court, petitions the Nevada Supreme Court, on its administrative docket, to consider the creation of a Commission to Study Best Practices for Virtual Advocacy in Nevada's Courts. In support of the petition, Chief Justice Hardesty alleges that:

1. After shutting down in March of 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Nevada's courts sought alternative methods for conducting business. In order to maintain access to justice, courts turned to technology; the use of remote/virtual platforms became essential in conducting court business.

2. Nevada courts are currently reopening in accordance with plans approved by their respective counties, the Governor's Office, and the Nevada Health and Human Services Department.

3. As the reopening process continues, members of Nevada's judiciary and the State Bar of Nevada have expressed interest in the continued use of remote/virtual options to conduct hearings and other court business.

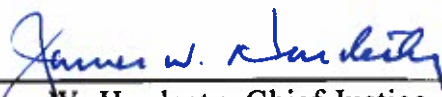
4. As such, it is appropriate for the Nevada Supreme Court to evaluate applicable rules to govern the unified use of remote technology in Nevada's general and limited jurisdiction courts and to consider possible rule changes necessary for handling criminal, civil, and family court matters effectively using remote technology.

Accordingly, petitioner requests that the Nevada Supreme Court place this Petition on its administrative docket and, following a public hearing thereon, approve the creation of the Commission to Study Best Practices for Virtual Advocacy in Nevada's Courts, authorize the Chief

21-14451

Justice to appoint members of the Commission, and require the Commission to provide its report and recommendations no later than October 31, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,


James W. Hardesty, Chief Justice