

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

**IN RE: REPORTS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
WORKGROUP ON IMPROVED
RESOLUTION OF CIVIL CASES**

CASE NO.: SC22-122

**MOTION BY THE CIVIL PROCEDURE RULES COMMITTEE FOR
A 30-DAY EXTENSION OF TIME TO COMMENT**

Jason Paul Stearns, Chair of the Civil Procedure Rules Committee of the Florida Bar (Committee) files this Motion for a 30-day extension to submit its Comment to the Workgroup's Final Report.

On February 10, 2022, this Court published its notice regarding the Workgroup on Improving Resolution of Civil Cases' Report and Recommendations and requested all interested parties to comment by March 31, 2022. The Final Report of the Workgroup, totaling over 300 pages, constitutes a comprehensive rewrite of the Rules of Civil Procedure. As this Committee is the principal rules committee of the Florida Bar dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of the Rules of Civil Procedure. As such, the Committee feels that it has a special and distinct responsibility to this Court to render its thoughts and suggestions to the Court as thoroughly as possible. The Committee had commented to the Workgroup on the draft report and began to work on its Comment to the Final Report as soon as the Court published it. That said, the task before the Committee goes beyond the special interests of any other group and requires that all of the many components of the Report be considered. After due consideration, the Committee respectfully requests that it be granted a 30-day extension of time within which to file its final Comment in this matter. To ensure that the comment process proceeds smoothly, the Committee suggests that, if this request is granted, the response time for all potential commenters be extended as well, making the new filing deadline April 30, 2022.

The Committee believes that the requested 30-day extension will facilitate the Court's "careful and deliberative process" in its review of this matter. The Committee agrees that a matter of this

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significance should receive that level of consideration and respectfully suggests that this requested extension will enhance rather than detract from that process. To be sure, the Courts and the Bar face congested civil dockets caused by a confluence of factors. Our current system of rules and case management techniques, however, is reported to have reduced circuit civil backlogs by 36% in just the last 6 months of 2021. While there is much more that can be done, it is believed that the backlog improvement with our current rules will continue so as to allow all parties interested in commenting an additional 30-days to do so, improving the end product accordingly.

For these reasons, the CPRC respectfully requests a 30-day extension within which to submit its comment in this matter, and also requests that any other interested parties be given the same extension.

Respectfully submitted on March 15, 2022.

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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I certify that this response was prepared in compliance with the font requirements of Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.045.

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