

**From:** [Robert Kezelis](#)  
**To:** [RulesCommittee](#)  
**Subject:** Remote court activities  
**Date:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 12:18:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [2021\\_04\\_08-Kezelis-cv.pdf](#)

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Dear Committee members:

I have been practicing in Illinois for several decades. I was involved early on in getting Cook County to move to electronic access (primary author of the Report of The Combined Bar Association Committee on Electronic Dissemination of Court Records- 1997) I teach a lot of CLE courses, mainly on civil litigation issues, ethics, and technology. I have been the moderator for multiple judicial conferences and CLE discussions across the state. I am committed and dedicated to improving the practice and the application of law for all who have need of legal or equitable held. (I've taken the liberty of providing my CV, hopefully to show that I've had some experience on the current issues)

I recall clearly the reluctance of too many courts, (especially smaller court systems) when the recommendations first came out about electronic access for all. In 2013, I surveyed every county on tech issues and published the findings in ITLA's Journal, which disclosed just how unprepared and unwilling many courts were to even consider E-access. Several courts reported they had Fax machines but did not know how to connect them to the internets.

I suspect that the response to our current rules will match that sad experience. There will be a few judges who embrace and support modern society, and there will be many more who will refuse, at least until we have stronger pushes and direction by our Supreme Court.

Since COVID losses began to ebb, I've heard the following comments from various judges:

"It is the duty of every attorney to appear in Court. I am the judge and I want everyone here. I enjoy dealing with and interacting with the public. That is my job and I promise you that you will be here in front of me."

-and-

"If I travel to court safely, so can every litigant."

-and-

"I just don't see how courts can function properly through zoom. It won't work. I won't stand for it."

-and-

"This court is going Live July 1. Period."

These are actual quotes I took down while appearing (on zoom) before one Will, one DuPage, and two Cook County judges. THAT is the mentality this Court and this Committee has to prepare for and to deal with.

At my age and with my health situation (chronic injuries caused by a drunk driver), travel is ever more cumbersome and painful. Being forced to travel an hour each with, with traffic, effectively limits what I can do, who I can represent, and what benefit I can offer to clients and opponents. I would strongly urge that the rules permitting remote access are bolstered, and that judges are more strongly advised they had better act accordingly.

Best wishes,

Robert A. Kezelis  
6151 W. 125th Place  
Palos Heights IL 60463

708 371 2587

#6192197

lawoffices.r.a.kezelis@gmail.com