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MONTGOMERY COUNTY
THIRTY-EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
19404

SENIOR JUDGES
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EMANUAL A. BERTIN

October 30, 2020

D. Alicia Hickok, Esquire
Faegre Drinker Biddle and Reath LLP
One Logan Square, Suite 2000
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Arthur Alan Wolk, Esquire
The Wolk Law Firm
1710-12 Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RE: Wolk v. The School District of Lower Merion,
Montgomery County, CCP, No. 2016-01839

Dear Ms. Hickok and Mr. Wolk:

This letter is to acknowledge the receipt of your letters as it relates to the above-captioned matter. In your letters, both of you have set forth some procedural history about this case and look to this Court as to when this matter will be heard in anticipation of remand by the Appellate Court.

We are all keenly aware of the pandemic. As it relates to this Court's operations because of the pandemic, we have initiated various phases as to the functions of the Court during the pandemic with the health and safety of all in mind. The Court has identified various phases of Court operations depending upon the pandemic and the ability to provide services in a healthy and safe manner. For example, Phase I involved primarily the issue of children and the safety of others by handling custody and protection from abuse matters of

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which there were over 700 cases. We were able to resolve every one of these cases without any interruption. When we went into Phase II, we agreed to expand our functions to include certain types of conferences done remotely to address other emergencies that could be addressed by the Court in a safe manner. Effective Monday, November 2, 2020, we will be entering Phase III. In Phase III, we are starting bench trials in both the criminal division and the civil division with the hopeful intent that these trials will convince us that we can start jury trials in Phase IV.

Your particular case does not involve any of the current phases of operation of the Court. I perfectly understand that you want to move this case forward as soon as possible but the reality is that our interests as a Court is also to ensure the safety and health of everyone during these dangerous times. Therefore, when we begin to discuss the nature of the operations in Phase IV, I will discuss your case for possible consideration as part of Phase IV.

I cannot overstate the importance of the Court to address all cases as soon as possible but in doing so, ensuring for the safety of everyone. Unlike our neighboring counties, we have been fortunate enough to not have any incidents of the virus that have effected our Court operations. We, as a Bench, have attributed that to the fact that we have used a gradual process of identifying those cases through a phase process to balance the operations of the Court and our concern for the safety of all.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter and I will communicate with Counsel once the discussion of Phase IV begins.

Very truly yours,



Thomas P. Rogers,
Administrative Judge