

The Chief Judge on 30 March 2020 announced that:

“.. the Court will endeavour to limit, as much as possible, personal appearances in court rooms by the technological enhancement of its current AVL system (the virtual courtroom).

Legal Practitioners will be expected to appear by use of the virtual courtroom.”

(Please see the below link to the District Court website: COVID -19 (Coronavirus) page where all the Court’s announcements and procedures are available.)

<http://www.districtcourt.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Further to this announcement the List Judge in the District Court in Sydney requests that your members be reminded that since 30 March last civil hearings in the District Court in Sydney have been proceeding by the utilisation of the virtual courtroom.

Parties should not assume that a hearing date will be vacated simply because of the existence of the Coronavirus.

Legal practitioners should expect any hearing to proceed and to receive prior to the hearing the details of how to connect to the virtual court room.

An information sheet will also be provided before each hearing as was sent to you on 26 March 2020 by the Judicial Registrar.

If a party seeks to vacate the hearing for any reason, including reasons related to COVID-19 restrictions, an application to the List Judge by way of notice of motion and a supporting affidavit is required.