



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**CHANGES TO THE NEW JERSEY RULES OF EVIDENCE
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020**

Dear Valued Clients, Partners and Friends:

As we continue to navigate the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we are dedicated to keeping you informed on the latest impacts to the legal practices across New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and California.

On July 1, 2020, certain changes to the New Jersey Rules of Evidence (the “Rules”) will take effect, specifically as to Sections: 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 201, 202, 301, 302, 303, 402, 404, 405, 408, 409, 410, 530, 601, 602, 604, 605, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 701, 703, 705, 801, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 901, 902, 903, 1001, 1003, 1005, 1006, 1007, and 1008.

The most notable changes have been made to Rules 530 and 608. Rule 530 has been amended to clarify the consequences of a party’s disclosure of information that is covered by the attorney-client privilege and/or work-product privilege. Rule 608 has been amended to clarify the circumstances where a party may use specific instances of a witness’s past conduct as evidence of the witness’s character --- where (1) a reasonable factual basis exists that the specific instance of conduct occurred, and (2) the specific instance of conduct has probative value in assessing the witness’s character for truthfulness (subject to a more stringent standard where said prior conduct was exhibited more than 10 years prior), provided that its probative value is not substantially outweighed by its unduly prejudicial effect.

For more information on the changes to these Rules or if you have any questions, please reach out to our Firm through our Litigation Department Chair, *David G. Tomeo, Esq.* (dtomeo@becker.legal), via email, or by phone at (973) 422-1100.

About Becker

Becker LLC is a premier mid-market firm with offices in New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia and California. The firm provides the complete spectrum of legal services from litigation, transactional, labor and employment, and bankruptcy law counseling, to intellectual property, real estate and construction law-related advice. Our size and regional footprint allows us to provide sophisticated services in a manner not only focused on results, but also on our client’s return on their investment.

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