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## **The Impact of Covid**

Was the pandemic real or was it a scam? I don't know if we will ever know, but it would appear to have been a lot of both. Despite the status of this event in our lives, it has severely impacted the judicial system far beyond most judges' comprehension. The reason being, each judge operates in his or her own separate world with little if any knowledge of the whole environment. Justice Canady recently wrote an article in the FL Bar News that he was proud, declaring that the bar had taken on and caught up with 30% of the backlog. That was stunning to me for I thought, "*wow we've been opened now for about two year.*" That equates to about 15% average per year. Looking at the courts, I question its even that high.

How has it impacted us? Well those serious about trying cases, (*which is a nominal sum of attorneys*), sometimes have experienced that when they arrive in court and are informed that their case is proceeding to a trial on a date certain, sometimes have discovered that is not entirely accurate. They may arrive to select a jury only to discover on the morning of trial that their case has been continued due to congestion. Face it, a judge can only try a couple of cases in a two week term if he's lucky. When that has happened, I have had to cancel motions in advance of a scheduled trial. I have likewise cancelled depositions and conferences. Now you can imagine such events start to have collateral consequences.

Recently, I had to reschedule a deposition in Ocala, FL. The next deposition date I obtained from the State was seven, (7) months out, [*emphasis added*]. An event never seen before. Another judge pressing me to move a case along could only schedule a motion hearing on the case for the four (4) months out. This has been the unfortunate impact of Covid.

Another impact is the manner in which this has financially impacted the attorney's. For some, there exists less desire to work cases as a consequence of the

drawn out procedures. The result is that cases are eagerly plead out prior to full discovery with no full analysis. This consequently impacts the public.

If you're shopping for an attorney ask the attorney how he has been managing his docket due to Covid. If their dockets are all caught up, that should signal you that they are most likely not working the cases and you may be looking at a forced plea down your throat even against your own will. Be careful.

If you desire your case to be worked, contact us. We are fighting this hard battle and expect it will be around for some time. I'm committed to doing what has to be done and insist upon the court that my client not suffer as a consequence of this backlog. Your case will be properly investigated.

Sincerely,

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