

TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
OF VIRGINIA

JACQUELINE F. WARD TALEVI, CHIEF JUDGE  
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GENERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ROANOKE  
GENERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE  
GENERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CITY OF SALEM

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

September 14, 2020

Members of the Roanoke Bar Association  
Members of the Salem/Roanoke County Bar Association

In RE: Preliminary Hearings in the Roanoke City General District Court

Dear Members of the Bar:

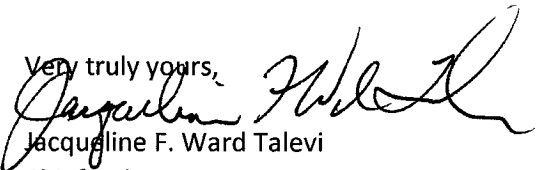
Please accept my apologies for using imprecise language in my earlier email regarding video preliminary hearings in Roanoke City General District Court. I should have made it clear that preliminary hearings would be conducted via video for persons who were in custody only and not persons who were out on bond.

However, after the email posted today, I learned that many of you are opposed to conducting the preliminary hearings for in custody persons via video. I have also learned that security and logistical issues which I thought had been resolved may still impede the smooth implementation of the video process.

While I am not one to vacillate in my decisions, after hearing concerns, I acknowledge that preliminary hearings via video may not be implemented smoothly at this point. Therefore, I retract my earlier email regarding the implementation of video preliminary hearings in Roanoke City General District Court. Beginning September 15, 2020 in the Roanoke City General District Court all preliminary hearings will be conducted in person.

Whiplash complete! Thank you for your comments and willingness to express your views and concerns.

Very truly yours,

  
Jacqueline F. Ward Talevi  
Chief Judge