IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON
ADMINISTRATION OF THE ATTORNEY OATH

WHEREAS, Maryland Rule 19-214 provides that when the Court has determined that an applicant or petitioner is qualified to practice law and is of good moral character, it shall enter an order directing that the applicant be admitted to the Bar on taking the oath required by law; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to subsection (b) of that Rule, the oath shall be administered in open court and, if in Maryland, be administered by a Judge of the Court of Appeals or by the Clerk of that Court; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the March 16, 2020 Administrative Order on Statewide Judiciary Restricted Operations Due to the COVID-19 Emergency all courts in the Maryland Judiciary shall be restricted to emergency operations and closed with limited exceptions, beginning on March 17, 2020, through April 3, 2020, or until further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, The March 16, 2020 Administrative Order does not affect the courts' resolution of matters that can be addressed without a proceeding that involves testimony or argument; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the issuance of the Administrative Order, Orders Nisi containing the names of applicants and petitioners who were found to be qualified to practice law and who are of good moral character were ratified; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Clerk of the Court of Appeals notified those applicants and petitioners that they will be admitted to the Bar on taking the oath required by law; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the June 18, 2018 Administrative Order on the Implementation of Remote Electronic Participation in Judicial Proceedings, remote electronic participation can occur where the entire proceeding is conducted by remote electronic means; and

WHEREAS, Telephonic electronic participation may be conducted using ordinary telephonic technology; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-1003(a)(2), (6), and(14), upon a determination by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals that an emergency declared by the Governor or an event within the scope of Rule 16-1001(b) significantly affects access to or the operations of the Court, the Chief Judge, by Administrative Order, may, to the extent necessary, permit proceedings to be conducted in the manner set forth in Rule 15-1004(d) – that is, by telephonic conference or similar means of communication, suspend the operation of Rules that cannot be implemented as intended because of the emergency or event, and take any other appropriate action necessary to ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, essential judicial business is effectively handled,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch, pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, § 18 of the Maryland Constitution, do hereby order this 17th day of March, 2020, as follows:

(a) During the period of the emergency closing of courts to the public, the statutory oath may be administered by the Clerk, Court of Appeals, by telephone at the telephone number provided by the applicant or petitioner; and

(b) Individuals admitted via a telephonic oath must execute the statutory oath, acknowledging by their signature that they were administered the oath, and return the same via U.S. mail to the Court of Appeals' Clerk's Office.

/s/ Mary Ellen Barbera
Mary Ellen Barbera
Chief Judge
Court of Appeals of Maryland

Filed: March 17, 2020

/s/ Suzanne C. Johnson
Suzanne C. Johnson
Clerk
Court of Appeals of Maryland

Pursuant to Maryland Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act
(§§ 10-1601 et seq. of the State Government Article) this document is authentic.

2020-03-17 16:22-04:00

Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk