IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON

REMOTE HEARINGS HELD DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Maryland Constitution, Article IV, § 18, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is granted authority as the administrative head of the Judicial Branch of the State, including the closing of courts in the State of Maryland and non-court judicial facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Court of Appeals has approved Chapter 1000 of Title 16 of the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure setting forth the emergency powers of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control, an emergency exists that poses a threat of imminent and potentially lethal harm to individuals who may come into contact with a court or judicial facility and personnel; and

WHEREAS, Remote technology exists to provide access to justice during the pandemic,

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 20th day of March 2020, as follows:

(a) To the extent that the courts have the capacity to hear emergency and other matters remotely, this Administrative Order authorizes such proceedings, with access to members of the public as justice requires. Courts shall notify all participants to the proceeding if a matter will proceed remotely; and

(b) Courts are authorized to conduct remote proceedings using communication platforms, consistent with the Administrative Order on the Implementation of Remote Electronic Participation in Judicial Proceedings filed June 18, 2018; and

(c) Proceedings shall be on the record using existing capacity or, to the extent necessary, the capacity offered in the communication platforms utilized; and

(d) This Administrative Order will be revised as circumstances warrant.

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

Filed: March 20, 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.

Suzanne Johnson
2020-03-20 13:55-04:00

Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk