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 April 3, 2020 Administrative Order Expanding 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 May 1, 2020, or until further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, The April 3, 2020 Administrative Order does not affect the courts' resolution of matters that can be addressed without a proceeding that involves testimony or argument and authorizes remote proceedings during the COVID-19 emergency, consistent with the June 18, 2018 Administrative Order on the Implementation of Remote Electronic Participation in Judicial Proceedings; and

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

WHEREAS, Prior to the issuance of the Administrative Order and during the extended period of judiciary restricted operations, 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 and will be ratified; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Clerk of the Court of Appeals has notified, and will notify, such applicants and petitioners that they will be admitted to the Bar upon taking the oath required by law; 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:

(1) 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;
(2) suspend the operation of Rules that cannot be implemented as intended because of the emergency or event; and
(3) 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 7th day of April 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 Office of the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.

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

Filed: April 7, 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
2020-04-07 16:40-04:00

Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk