STATE OF VERMONT
SUPREME COURT
MARCH TERM, 2020

Order Promulgating Amendment to Administrative Order No. 49

1. Pursuant to the Vermont Constitution, Chapter II, § 30 and Administrative Order No. 48, it is hereby ordered that Administrative Order No. 49 be amended as follows (new matter underlined):

11. **Remote Hearings in the Superior Court:** Notwithstanding the suspension of nonemergency hearings in ¶ 3, in their discretion, Superior Judges may conduct nonevidentiary hearings in nonemergency matters if all participants participate remotely and are not present in the courthouse. This discretion may be limited by staff availability in the discretion of the Court Administrator; the Court Administrator is authorized to make real time (that is, day-to-day or even hour-to-hour) determinations as to whether and to what extent such hearings may be scheduled and/or conducted in a particular unit.

12. **Discretion Concerning Oral Arguments in the Supreme Court:** Notwithstanding V.R.A.P. 33.1, V.R.A.P. 34, or any other rule or timeline inconsistent with this order, the Supreme Court may hold oral arguments remotely by telephone for summary and full-Court proceedings. In addition, in its discretion, and with notice to the parties, the Court may decide appeals, for summary and full-Court cases, without argument and on the basis of the briefs.

2. This order is effective immediately and extends until April 15, 2020, unless extended by order of this Court.

3. The Chief Justice is authorized to report this order to the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of 12 V.S.A. §1, as amended.

Done in chambers at Montpelier, Vermont this 18th day of March 2020.

Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice

Beth Robinson, Associate Justice

Harold E. Eaton, Jr., Associate Justice

Karen R. Carroll, Associate Justice

William D. Cohen, Associate Justice