IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

ON EXPANDING THE STATEWIDE SUSPENSION OF JURY TRIALS AND SUSPENDING GRAND JURIES

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; 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, In instances of emergency conditions, whether natural or otherwise, that significantly disrupt access to or the operations of one or more courts or other judicial facilities of the State or the ability of the Judiciary to operate effectively, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals may be required to determine the extent to which court operations or judicial functions shall continue; and

WHEREAS, Due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and 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, The emergency continues to require comprehensive measures to protect the health and safety of Maryland residents and Judiciary personnel,

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 3rd day of April 2020, that:

(a) All grand juries shall be suspended until further notice, subject to any exception that may be granted on an individual basis by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

(b) All civil jury trials in the Circuit Courts throughout the state of Maryland scheduled to begin on or after March 16, 2020, have been and shall be suspended on an emergency basis pending further Order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

(c) All criminal jury trials in the Circuit Courts throughout the state of Maryland scheduled to begin on or after March 16, 2020, have been and shall be suspended on an emergency basis pending further Order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

(d) Any currently scheduled trial date that is at least six weeks after the date that concludes the COVID-19 emergency period as ordered by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals will be maintained, absent further order of the court in which the trial is scheduled; and

(e) Pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-1003(a)(7), statutory and rules deadlines related to the adjudication of pending criminal matters shall be suspended and extended by the number of days that the courts are closed to the public by order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and until such time that jury trials are authorized to resume pursuant to further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

(f) The Administrative Order on the Statewide Suspension of Jury Trials filed March 12, 2020, shall be and hereby is rescinded; and

(g) To the extent that this Administrative Order conflicts with extant Administrative Orders, this Administrative Order shall prevail; and

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

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

Filed: April 3, 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
2020-04-03 16:14-04:00

Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk