# IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
# ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
# ON
# POSTPONEMENT OF
# THE JULY 2020 MARYLAND BAR EXAMINATION

WHEREAS, Due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and consistent with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals determined that an emergency exists that poses a threat of harm to individuals who congregate in large groups; and

WHEREAS, On May 6, 2020, the Governor of Maryland extended the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency declared on March 5, 2020, due to COVID-19, and on May 13, 2020, eased the stay-at-home restrictions, but delegated authority to local jurisdictions to continue restrictions based on local conditions; and

WHEREAS, In response, the Mayor of the City of Baltimore issued an order extending the stay-at-home restrictions in the City of Baltimore; and

WHEREAS, More than one thousand applications to sit for the July 2020 Maryland Bar Examination were received by the State Board of Law Examiners (Board), which would create a congregate gathering at the Baltimore Convention Center far in excess of current guidance by the CDC and MDH; and

WHEREAS, After discussions with the Governor's Chief Legal Counsel, the Board has concluded that it cannot administer the July 2020 Maryland Bar Examination with adequate social distancing in a single location as previously scheduled; and

WHEREAS, Uncertainty about whether the status of the COVID-19 emergency and the phased reopening of locations in Maryland will allow administration of the Bar Examination in multiple locations in Maryland further prevents its administration on the previously scheduled dates of July 28 and 29, 2020, it is this 26th day of May 2020,

ORDERED, by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, as follows:

(a) Maryland Rule 19-203(b) shall be and hereby is suspended until further notice as to the months of the year in which the Maryland Bar Examination shall be administered; and

(b) A September administration of the Bar Examination is planned to occur in place of the previously scheduled July administration; as such, the Bar Examination in Maryland, now scheduled for July 28 and 29, 2020, at the Baltimore Convention Center, will be postponed and tentatively rescheduled for September 9 and 10, 2020, at multiple locations that are yet to be determined;

(c) Administration of the Bar Examination on the planned September 2020 dates shall be contingent upon then-existing public health guidance and restrictions regarding group gatherings and social distancing; and

(d) Applications filed timely by the May 20, 2020, filing deadline shall be carried over without additional requirements to the planned September administration of the Bar Examination; and

(e) No new, additional, or extended application filing period shall be provided by the Board, absent further Order of this Court; and

(f) Requests for the Board to accept late-filed applications pursuant to Maryland Rule 19-206(d) and Board Rule 2 shall be addressed pursuant to those Rules.

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

Filed: May 26, 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
2020-05-26 11:26-04:00

Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk