IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON
COURT OF APPEALS EMERGENCY RULES MEETING TO CONSIDER THE 204TH REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE

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, 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 vulnerable individuals who may come into contact with a court or judicial facility and personnel; and

WHEREAS, The Administrative Order on Statewide Closing Due to the COVID-19 Emergency, filed on March 13, 2020, has closed courthouses statewide to the public, except for emergency matters and to the extent that an individual court has the capacity to hear additional matters; and

WHEREAS, A meeting of the Court of Appeals has been scheduled on an emergency basis on March 16, 2020, at 1:00 PM, to consider new rules and amendments to existing rules of procedure proposed in the Two Hundred and Fourth (204th) Report of the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, which seek to elaborate the administrative authority of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals during an emergency, and

WHEREAS, The proposed additions and changes to the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure having been considered by the full Standing Committee on Rules of Practice

and Procedure on March 13, 2020, at a public meeting, and the consensus draft having been submitted to the Court of Appeals as the 204th Report on the same date; and

WHEREAS, Meetings of the Court of Appeals to review and consider the changes to the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure shall be open to the public,

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 15th day of March, 2020, as follows:

(a) The Meeting of the Court of Appeals (Meeting) to consider the 204th Report shall be held in the courtroom, located on the fourth floor of the Courts of Appeal Building in order to allow the hearing to be livestreamed; and

(b) Individuals who wish to attend the Meeting or to provide testimony about the proposed rules and amendments shall be allowed to enter the Courts of Appeal building and shall proceed directly to the fourth floor for the Meeting; and

(c) All regular security, including entrance screening, shall remain in place; and

(d) In addition, any person who appears to be ill with a respiratory illness shall not be admitted; and

(e) Any person who is aware he or she has been exposed to a person with COVID-19 or who been advised to self-quarantine or has been ordered to be quarantined shall not attempt to gain access to the Courts of Appeal Building; and

(f) Any such person who wishes to provide testimony may instead send an e-mail identifying themselves and the text of their testimony, not to exceed 750 words, by noon on March 16, 2020, to the following e-mail address at

the Clerk of the Court of Appeals of Maryland:

COAClerkoftheCourt@mdcourts.gov; and

(g) If a person attending the Meeting leaves before its conclusion, he or she shall return directly to the first floor and exit the building. Upon conclusion of the Meeting, all members of the public in attendance shall leave the fourth floor and exit the building. Any person who does not leave as required shall be subject to removal by building security.

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

Filed: March 15, 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.

2020-03-16 08:11-04:00

Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk