

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
REFUNDING FUNDS DEDICATED TO
THE MARYLAND PROFESSIONALISM CENTER

WHEREAS, The Court of Appeals having previously established, by the Administrative Order Creating Professionalism Commission, February 17, 2004, a Court Commission on Professionalism; and

WHEREAS, The Court having next established, on March 9, 2009, a successor, permanent Professionalism Commission, with the Chief Judge's April 7, 2009, Administrative Order Continuing Professionalism Commission defining its structure and operation; and

WHEREAS, A majority of the Court of Appeals, in its December 16, 2011, Administrative Order Disbursing Funds from the Surplus in the Attorney Grievance Fund, having directed that Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) be disbursed to the Professionalism Commission; and

WHEREAS, The Chief Judge's September 12, 2012, Administrative Order as to the Maryland Professionalism Center having replaced the Professionalism Commission with the Maryland Professionalism Center (Center), directing that rules be promulgated by the Court of Appeals to codify the structure, operation, and authority of the Center and having set forth, in the interim, the same, including funding via a \$20 increase in the fee paid by new Maryland Bar Admittees and \$5.00 of the annual assessment collected by the Client Protection Fund from each Maryland attorney, which would have otherwise been deposited in the Attorney Grievance Disciplinary Fund; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the Court of Appeals having authorized, in the Administrative Order Disbursing Additional Funds to the Professionalism Center, January 9, 2013, the disbursement to the Center of \$72,000 generated by fees paid by new Bar Admittees; and

WHEREAS, The Court of Appeals having approved then Maryland Rule 16-407, now 16-703, establishing the Maryland Professionalism Center as a unit of the Maryland Judiciary, effective May 1, 2013, and authorizing additional funding through the judicial budget; and

WHEREAS, The Court of Appeals, after consideration of recommendations by the Work Group on the Professionalism Course and Professionalism Center (see the Administrative Order Establishing the Work Group on the Professionalism Course and Professionalism Center, issued June 8, 2015), having adopted amendments to now Maryland Rule 16-703, effective July 1, 2016, removing as sources of funding the \$20 fee paid by new Maryland Bar Admittees and the \$5.00 from the annual assessment collected by the Client Protection Fund from Maryland attorneys; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Professionalism Center having been unable to obtain funding through an appropriation in the annual judicial budget in Fiscal Year 2016 and, further, having presented its final professionalism course in 2015, concluded its activities by early 2017; and

WHEREAS, A balance of at least \$341,466.39 and up to \$346,466.39 of the funds collected by the means authorized by the administrative orders and Maryland Rule 16-407 remains unspent, and

NOW, THEREFORE, Pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, § 18 of the Maryland Constitution and as part of its inherent power under the Constitution to regulate the practice of law, it is this 17th day of October 2019,

ORDERED, by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, that the sum of at least \$341,466.39 and up to \$346,466.39 shall be accepted as a refund of all remaining funds authorized for activities and operating expenses of the Maryland Professionalism Center and shall be deposited in the Attorney Grievance Disciplinary Fund; and it is further

ORDERED, that the September 12, 2012, Administrative Order as to the Maryland Professionalism Center shall be, and hereby is, rescinded.

/s/ Mary Ellen Barbera

Mary Ellen Barbera

/s/ Robert N. McDonald

Robert N. McDonald

/s/ Shirley M. Watts

Shirley M. Watts

/s/ Michele D. Hotten

Michele D. Hotten

/s/ Joseph M. Getty

Joseph M. Getty

/s/ Brynja M. Booth

Brynja M. Booth

Date: October 17, 2019

/s/ Suzanne C. Johnson

Suzanne C. Johnson
Clerk of the Court of Appeals

Pursuant to Maryland Uniform Electronic Legal
Materials Act
(§§ 10-1601 et seq. of the State Government Article) this document is authentic.



Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk