

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON
ADMINISTRATION OF THE ATTORNEY OATH

WHEREAS, Maryland Rule 19-214 provides that when the Court has determined that an applicant or petitioner is qualified to practice law and is of good moral character, it shall enter an order directing that the applicant be admitted to the Bar on taking the oath required by law; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to subsection (b) of that Rule, the oath shall be administered in open court and, if in Maryland, be administered by a Judge of the Court of Appeals or by the Clerk of that Court; and

WHEREAS, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a public health emergency has existed in the state of Maryland and the Maryland Judiciary since March 2020; and

WHEREAS, The courts' resolution of matters that can be addressed without a proceeding that involves testimony or argument expressly has been allowed and encouraged throughout the emergency; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 emergency, Orders Nisi containing the names of applicants and petitioners who were found to be qualified to practice law and who are of good moral character were, or will be, ratified; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Clerk of the Court of Appeals has notified, or will notify, those applicants and petitioners that they will be admitted to the Bar upon taking the oath required by law; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the June 18, 2018 Administrative Order on the Implementation of Remote Electronic Participation in Judicial Proceedings, remote electronic participation can occur where the entire proceeding is conducted by remote electronic means; and

WHEREAS, Telephonic electronic participation may be conducted using ordinary telephonic technology; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-1003(a)(2), (6), and (14), upon a determination by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals that an emergency declared by the Governor or an event within the scope of Rule 16-1001(b) significantly affects access to or the operations of the Court, the Chief Judge, by Administrative Order, may, to the extent necessary, permit proceedings to be conducted in the manner set forth in Rule 15-1104(d)—that is, by telephonic conference or similar means of communication, suspend the operation of Rules that cannot be implemented as intended because of the emergency or event, and take any other appropriate action necessary to ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, essential judicial business is effectively handled,

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 19th day of July 2021, as follows:

- (a) During the period of the COVID-19 emergency, effective April 7, 2020 *nunc pro tunc*, and until further Order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the statutory oath may be administered by the Clerk, Court of Appeals, by telephone at the telephone number provided by the applicant or petitioner; and

- (b) Individuals admitted via a telephonic oath must execute the statutory oath, acknowledging by their signature that they were administered the oath, and return the same either in person or via U.S. mail or other shipping delivery service to the Court of Appeals' Clerk's Office;
- (c) The Administrative Orders on the Administration of the Attorney Oath, filed on March 17, 2020, and April 7, 2020, shall be and hereby are rescinded, effective immediately.

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

Filed: July 20, 2021

/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 C. Johnson, Clerk