

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND  
THIRD 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 or petitioner be admitted to the Bar on taking the statutory oath of attorneys 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, 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 15-1004(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; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a public health emergency existed in the state of Maryland and with the Maryland Judiciary that required the oath to be administered in open court using remote technology; and

WHEREAS, On March 28, 2022, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, by *Administrative Order Lifting the COVID-19 Health Emergency as to the Maryland*

*Judiciary*, declared that the COVID-19 emergency period shall conclude at midnight on April 3, 2022, and normal operations shall resume thereafter; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the March 28, 2022 *Administrative Order on the Implementation of Remote Electronic Judicial Proceedings*, following the conclusion of the COVID-19 emergency period, the use of remote proceedings is encouraged to be utilized as a robust component in court proceedings; and

WHEREAS, It continues to be feasible, for both the Court of Appeals and the applicants and petitioners who were, or will be, found to be qualified to practice law and who are of good moral character, to continue the use of remote technology for the administration of the oath,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joseph M. Getty, 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022, as follows:

- (a) 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 videoconference or by telephone at the telephone number provided by the applicant or petitioner; and
- (b) Individuals who are administered the statutory attorney oath by videoconference or by telephone 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, April 7, 2020, and July 20, 2021 shall be and hereby are rescinded, effective immediately.

/s/ Joseph M. Getty  
Joseph M. Getty  
Chief Judge  
Court of Appeals of Maryland

Filed: March 29, 2022

/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