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The Hon. Lawrence J. Hogan, Governor of Maryland
The Hon. Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge, Maryland Court of Appeals
Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary of Health

Re: Maryland Vaccination Priority for Attorneys

This is a difficult time for so many. In this darkest of days for our great state and the nation, we appreciate your steadfast and enduring leadership. We have every faith in your commitment and untiring devotion to the great state of Maryland and its citizens.

We understand the many difficulties presented by this global pandemic and now the unprecedented effort to vaccinate every Marylander against the Covid-19 virus. This is simply something that has never been done on this scale before anywhere. We fully support your efforts to achieve the goal of vaccinating everyone in our great state as fast as humanly possible.

It is in this vein, and with the greatest appreciation, that we appeal to you on behalf of all of the members of our respective Bar associations. Our membership, and our society as a whole, values the Rule of Law. It is one of our most important traditions. Our members hold their duty in this regard as sacred. We therefore appeal to you and urge you to include members of the State Bar in category 1C of the state's Covid-19 vaccine rollout. This is in accordance with the guidelines issued by the CDC. It is also the stated practice of other jurisdictions in the region and across the country.

While our members are not frontline healthcare workers or first responders, their role in society is extremely important. It is imperative that our members be able to return to court, visit incarcerated clients as well as elderly and infirm clients as soon as possible without risking their own lives or the lives of others. We recognize that not all attorneys will accept the invitation to participate in phase 1C, however, those that go in and out of the jails, meet with elderly clients, and are in and out of our courts most likely will.

We implore you to consider our request, both to reassure our members as well as the citizens of Maryland as a whole. Justice must not be delayed or denied to any Marylander. The smooth and efficient functioning of our courts is essential to this.

We again applaud your leadership in this crisis. We remain steadfast in appreciation of your efforts and look forward to your decision.

MBSA, Baltimore City Bar et al