

Since March, our nation and the world have experienced the threat of a global pandemic that has resulted in a variety of mandates for social distancing. This situation has affected, if not disrupted, normal business operations for law firms and justice systems. As trial attorneys, most of us have learned to handle adversity, respond to change with flexibility, and think outside of the box. These challenging times require each of us to use these skills if we are to move our cases forward, while adhering to COVID-19 safety precautions.

Though the plaintiffs and defense bar rarely collaborate and normally find themselves on opposite sides of the bar, we are writing to you, the members of Kentucky Defense Counsel, Inc. and Kentucky Justice Association, to appeal to a common interest. If we are to successfully navigate these uncharted waters and satisfy our mutual objectives to zealously and diligently represent our clients' interests, we each must embody the spirit of collaboration, collegiality, civility, and cooperation.

We encourage exploration of technology and innovation of creative solutions to conduct discovery and resolve cases, including remote depositions and mediations. We also encourage the use of more traditional, but tried and true, method of simply picking up the telephone to temperately discuss a dispute or resolve a problem.

Mutual cooperation in these extraordinary times will not only benefit our clients, but will help our justice system operate more smoothly once we are beyond the present challenge. Moreover, by working together we can represent to the courts that we did our part to help support the judicial system and the integrity of the litigation process.

Both organizations have compiled resources and planned events to empower our members to undertake this endeavor and we hope to be a resource for you as this situation unfolds. We shall each continue to serve our members by providing updated COVID-19 court information and sharing resources on social media platforms.

In all things, we want what is best for our members, the justice system, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. With this in mind, we remain resolute in promoting a spirit of civility and cooperation, while we continue as officers of the court to represent our clients. Please stay safe and well and reach out to either of us if you have particular needs or thoughts about efforts that we may attempt to benefit our members further.

Penny Hendy, President



Claire Parsons, President

