

## A JOINT STATEMENT FROM MAJ AND MDC

April 9, 2020

To: Members of the Maryland Association for Justice and Maryland Defense Counsel

From: Ellen B. Flynn, President of MAJ and Dwight W. Stone, II, President of MDC

As we try to help our members navigate the ever-changing legal system, our respective clients' concerns, and the responsibilities we have to our community in the COVID-19 environment, we would like to emphasize the need to work together with our opposing counsel. As you all know, the Governor has identified lawyers, law firms, and court reporters, as essential workers, and thus not subject to the mandatory closure. Governor Hogan also requested all employers, essential or not, to promote work-from-home arrangements to the greatest extent possible to avoid unnecessary exposure. In addition, Chief Judge Barbera has issued a video to all members of the Maryland Bar encouraging us to be good stewards of the legal system and the rights of our clients in this trying environment by working together and utilizing technology to accomplish our representation of our clients. No doubt this is challenging.

We believe that zealous representation of our clients can still be accomplished. We encourage the use of technological solutions to conduct discovery and resolve cases through remote depositions and mediations in order to keep our cases moving. We also encourage cooperation in modifying deadlines and selecting trial dates when the courts reopen for trials. When the Maryland judicial system fully opens again, we must have done our part to support the legal system by advancing our cases and readying ourselves and our cases for trial to the fullest extent possible under the circumstances. Maryland judges are still available to resolve disputes over discovery issues and deadlines, but let's be sure to fully exhaust our ability in good faith to resolve such disputes without further burdening the courts during this emergency.

Our organizations will continue to provide information, support and resources to our members with these goals in mind.

Be well,



Ellen B. Flynn  
President, MAJ



Dwight W. Stone, II  
President, MDC