

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

### **SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA**

#### **RE: RESCINDING COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOL**

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia issued the COVID-19 Planning Document (Court Protocols) to govern operations of courts throughout the State of West Virginia in order to protect the health and well-being of court employees, litigants, witnesses, jurors, attorneys, and the general public; and

WHEREAS, a State of Emergency was declared for West Virginia by Proclamation of the Governor issued March 16, 2020, pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia entered an order declaring a Judicial Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia entered an order regarding COVID-19 Resumption of Operations (“Resumption of Operations Order”); and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia entered Amendment No. 1 to the May 6, 2020 Resumption of Operations Order; and

WHEREAS, both orders adopted and incorporated by reference a number of protocols relating to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as on June 25, 2021, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia entered an order suspending the majority of COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols until further notice; and


WHEREAS, the Court has continually monitored the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in West Virginia, and has adopted and applied the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Governor of West Virginia when possible; and

WHEREAS, by Proclamation issued November 12, 2022, the Governor of West Virginia declared an end to the State of Emergency declared March 16, 2020, and that this end to the State of Emergency was effective January 1, 2023.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols adopted by this Court are rescinded. However, it may still be appropriate for the Chief Circuit Judge to consult with the local health department and the Administrative Office as necessary to determine whether temporary orders be issued regarding specific protocols.


The Administrative Office of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals shall transmit this Administrative Order by appropriate means to all judicial officers.

ENTERED: FEBRUARY 1, 2023



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ELIZABETH D. WALKER  
Chief Justice

Attest:   
Edythe Nash Gaiser, Clerk  
Supreme Court of Appeals