February 24, 2021

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 additional members of the Maryland bar in category 1C of the state’s Covid-19 vaccine rollout. This is in accordance with the national guidelines issued by the CDC. It is also the stated practice of other jurisdictions in the region and across the country. Maryland remains an outlier from our surrounding jurisdictions, including Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, and South Carolina, which currently include all attorneys in 1C vaccine priority status. Washington D.C. has a multi-tiered system close to the CDC guidelines that includes staff working in courts and individuals providing legal services in Priority Group 1B.

While our members are not frontline healthcare workers or first responders, their role in society is extremely important for the continuity of government. Vaccine priority for our profession is about protecting attorneys on the frontlines of justice, and protecting the clients and communities we serve. It is imperative that our members be able to return to court, visit incarcerated clients, elderly and infirm clients, and those vulnerable populations with limited access to remote technology, 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, meet clients in person, and are in and out of our courts most likely will and should be given the opportunity.
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.

Hon. Mark F. Scurti, President, Maryland State Bar Association

Reena Shah, Esquire, Executive Director, Access to Justice Commission

Darren Kadish, Esquire, President, Bar Association of Baltimore City

Robert Alderson, Esquire, President, Allegany County Bar Association

Michelle Wilson, Esquire, President, Alliance of Black Women Attorneys of Maryland
John Doud, Esquire, President, Anne Arundel County Bar Association

Anne Grover, Esquire, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Maryland

Jay Miller, Esquire, President, Baltimore County Bar Association

Catherine Hopkin, Esquire, President, Bankruptcy Bar Association of Maryland

Cristine LoVetro, Esquire, President, Bar Association of Frederick County

Amy Lorenzini, President, Calvert County Bar Association
Hon. Bonnie Schneider, President, Cecil County Bar Association

Christian Mash, Esquire, President, Garrett County Bar Association

Angela Diehl, Esquire, President, Harford County Bar Association

Hon. Lara Weathersbee, President, Howard County Bar Association

Shaundricka Ranel, Esquire, President, J. Franklin Bourne Bar Association

Laura McMahon, President, LBGTQ Bar Association

Amy Orsi, Esquire, President, Maryland Association for Justice
Pauline C. Onyemaechi, Esquire, President, Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys' Association

Colleen O'Brien, Esquire, President, Maryland Defense Counsel

Roy Lyford-Pike, Esquire, President-Elect, Maryland Hispanic Bar Association

Mayabanza Sylena Bangudi, Esquire, President, MD/DC/VA Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association

Thomas DeGonia II, Esquire, President, Montgomery County Bar Association

Hon. Michael Studdard, President, Monumental City Bar Association
Llamilet Gutierrez, Esquire, President, Prince George’s County Bar Association

**SIMON E. SOBELOFF**

Hon. Laurie Bennett, President, Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society, Baltimore Chapter

Allen Orenberg, Esquire, President, Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society, Montgomery County Chapter

David Weiskopf, Esquire, President, St. Mary’s County Bar Association

Imande Altema, Esquire, President, The Everett J. Waring/Juanita Jackson Mitchell Law Society of Howard County, Inc.

Victoria Lobley, Esquire, President, Washington County Bar Association
Jan Lukas, Esquire, President, Wicomico County Bar Association

Tracey Parker-Warren, Esquire, President, Women’s Bar Association of Maryland, Inc.

Meghan Marek, Esquire, President, Women’s Law Center of Maryland

Jill Odierno, Esquire, President, Worcester County Bar Association