



SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 30, 2020

The Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge
Court of Appeals of Maryland
361 Rowe Blvd.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk
Court of Appeals of Maryland
COAClerkoftheCourt@mdcourts.gov

Re: Order staying evictions and foreclosures in Maryland

Dear Chief Judge Barbera,

The undersigned organizations offer our sincere gratitude for your swift action to stay all residential evictions, eviction proceedings and foreclosure proceedings in Maryland. We have no doubt that your order has saved lives.

There is a growing body of evidence that evictions are not merely a symptom of poverty, but also cause poverty and endanger the physical and mental wellbeing of those families subject to eviction – even in normal times. In this crisis, that risk of harm is magnified a thousandfold. Many social services agencies are running with a skeleton crew. Heads of households are losing their jobs at unprecedented rates. No one is hiring. No one is leasing. For obvious reasons, a crowded, under-resourced homeless shelter is the last place at which any family or individual should reside at this time.

Even when new cases of COVID begin to subside, it will be some time before government and the private sector will be prepared to respond to the enormous need for rental and mortgage assistance that will result from this global pandemic and economic crisis. We urge you to keep this order in place until we return to more normal social and economic times.

Some states have stayed evictions; many have not. Your leadership and clarity of purpose in this unprecedented moment preserves the social fabric in Maryland from irreparable harm. Thank you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

John Nethercut
Executive Director

Debra Gardner
Legal Director

ATTORNEYS
Ashley Black
Monisha Cherayil
Sally Dworak-Fisher
Matthew Hill
Charisse Lue
John Pollock
Renuka Rege
Russell R. Reno, Jr.
Dena Robinson
Tyra Robinson
David Rodwin
Zafar S. Shah

In Memoriam:
Camilla Roberson
2010-2017

PARALEGALS
Levern Blackmon
Certified Paralegal

Carolina Paul
Becky Sigman
Kelly Webber
Lena Yeakey

Brenda Midkiff
Director of Administration

Kathleen Elliott, CFRE
Director of Development

Erin Brock
Development Manager

Rebecca Reynolds
Development Associate

One North Charles Street
Suite 200
Baltimore, MD 21201

410.625.9409

www.publicjustice.org

Regards,

John Nethercut, Executive Director
Public Justice Center

Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr., Executive Director
Maryland Legal Aid

Sharon E. Goldsmith, Executive Director
Pro Bono Resource Center

Susan Francis, Executive Director
Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service

Antonia Fasanelli, Executive Director
Homeless Persons Representation Project

Robin C. Murphy, Executive Director
Disability Rights Maryland

Marceline White, Executive Director
Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

Carol Ott, Tenant Advocacy Director
Fair Housing Action Center of Md.

Jessica Quincosa, Executive Director
Comm. Legal Services of Prince George's Co.

Dana Vickers Shelley, Executive Director
ACLU of Maryland