



Vermont Bar Association

• *Serving the Public and the Profession*

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Governor Phil Scott
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, Vermont 05609

Dear Governor Scott,

Thank you for your leadership in these unique times. I write to offer the assistance of the Vermont Bar Association in connection with the COVID 19 outbreak. At this time, the Vermont Bar Association is actively working on the legal issues arising from the Supreme Court's recent emergency order. We are also taking steps to ensure that lawyers have the tools they need to serve clients during this health crisis.

- We are working with the Secretary of State to promulgate an emergency rule to allow for remote notarization so our members can assist people in executing important documents such as powers of attorney for health care without having to leave their homes.
- We are scheduling weekly conference calls with the Judiciary to monitor the access to justice needs that may arise due to court closures and have requested that representatives of the Defender General, Attorney General, and State's Attorneys Association be invited to participate.
- We are communicating with our section chairs and county bar presidents to stay on top of issues arising in the field so we can bring them to the Court's attention in an orderly manner.
- We are organizing an ad hoc COVID-19 Committee and working with organizers of a state-wide disaster relief project to ensure that Vermonters' legal needs related to COVID-19 issues are met.
- Early this week I sent a message to our members as a first step in setting the tone. Please see link to the message:
<https://www.vtbar.org/News/Details.aspx?NewsId=7042>

I am not sure what our members or association can do to assist you as you lead us through this outbreak, but I wanted you to know that the VBA stands ready to answer the call to serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of help. Thank you again for all that you and your team are doing to meet the many challenges throughout Vermont.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Novotny
VBA Board President