

1  
2  
3  
4 DISCIPLINARY BOARD

5 ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY  
6 IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
7

8 The following Administrative Order is issued pursuant to Washington Supreme Court  
9 Order 25700-B-609. This order affects all matters in the discipline and disability system, except  
10 those before the Washington Supreme Court. This Order will be sent electronically to the  
11 Washington Supreme Court, to all parties in pending discipline and disability matters, and will  
12 be posted on the WSBA website.

13 BACKGROUND AND FACTS

- 14 1. On February 29, 2020 Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency for the  
15 entire state of Washington due to the public health emergency posed by the  
16 coronavirus disease, COVID-19.
- 17 2. On March 11, 2020 Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-07 prohibiting  
18 gatherings of 250 people or more (in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties), and  
19 strongly encouraging mitigation measures in all other large gatherings (including  
20 social distancing/6 feet, and frequent cleaning of all surfaces)<sup>1</sup>; Proclamation 20-07  
21 noted further restrictions for events in King County as imposed in a parallel Local  
22 Health Order of the same date (see below).

23 

---

<sup>1</sup> On March 13, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-11, expanding the restrictions of  
24 Proclamation 20-07 to all counties in the state of Washington.

- 1 3. On March 11, 2020, Dr. Jeff Duchin, Health Officer for Public Health – Seattle &  
2 King County issued a Local Health Officer Order for King County prohibiting  
3 gatherings of fewer than 250 people unless organizers take the following steps: (1)  
4 Older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions that are at increased  
5 risk of serious COVID-19 are encouraged not to attend (including employees); (2)  
6 Social distancing recommendations must be met (i.e., limit contact of people within  
7 6 feet from each other for 10 minutes or longer); (3) Employees must be screened for  
8 coronavirus symptoms each day and excluded if symptomatic; (4) Proper hand  
9 hygiene and sanitation must be readily available to all attendees and employees; and  
10 (5) Environmental cleaning guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and  
11 Prevention (CDC) are followed (e.g., clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily or  
12 more frequently).
- 13 4. On March 16, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-14 amending  
14 Proclamations 20-07 and 20-11, pertaining to gatherings of 250 or more, to reduce  
15 the size of the gatherings to 50 people or less, and to prohibit activities of less than  
16 50 people unless organizers comply with social distancing and sanitation measures  
17 established by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the  
18 Washington State Department of Health guidelines.
- 19 5. On March 20, 2020, Chief Justice Debra Stephens issued Amended Order 27500-B-  
20 607, which suspends jury trials and other non-emergency matters until after April 24,  
21 2020. The Order requires courts to allow telephonic or video appearances for hearing  
22 scheduled between now and April 24, unless impossible. The Order also allows  
23 courts to “adopt measures to protect health and safety that are more restrictive than  
24

1 this order, as circumstances warrant, including by extending as necessary the time  
2 frames in this order.”

3 6. On March 23, 2020 Governor Inslee issue Proclamation 20-25 prohibiting all  
4 gatherings and ordering all people in Washington from leaving their homes except  
5 for the limited purposes stated in the Proclamation.

6 7. On March 24, 2020, Chief Justice Debra Stephens issued Order 25700-B-609,  
7 temporarily authorizing the Chief Hearing Officer and the Disciplinary Board Chair  
8 to issue sua sponte emergency administrative orders relating to discipline and  
9 disability matters, except for those matters before the Washington Supreme  
10 Court. The emergency orders may include modifications of the manner and  
11 timing of hearings and proceedings, depositions, default hearings, motions,  
12 settlement conferences, filing, service, and delivery of other papers by the clerk  
13 under the ELC, and transmission of other documents, papers and communications  
14 authorized or required under the ELC, consistent with the Washington Supreme  
15 Court’s Amended Order 27500-B-607 (March 20, 2020).

16 8. Based on the current health emergency, good cause exists to issue an administrative  
17 order relating to pending discipline and disability matters, except those before the  
18 Washington Supreme Court.

19 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

20 HEARINGS

21 1. All in-person hearings in discipline and disability matters with hearing dates  
22 currently set on or before April 24, 2020 are continued.

23 2. All unexpired deadlines in Scheduling Orders for matters described in paragraph 1  
24

are continued until new or amended Scheduling Orders are issued.

3. Hearing Officers should work with the parties to establish new hearing dates for matters described in paragraph 1 and should issue new or amended scheduling orders by April 20, 2020.
4. For any matters where a hearing date has not been set as of the date of this order, the hearing should not be set before July 1, 2020.

#### DEPOSITIONS

1. Until this order is amended or rescinded, depositions may be held by telephone or videoconference only.

#### DEFAULT HEARINGS

1. Until this order is amended or rescinded, default hearings may proceed by telephone or videoconference only.

#### DISCIPLINARY BOARD MATTERS

1. Sue sponte considerations and stipulation approvals may continue by telephone or videoconferencing only.
2. Matters before the Disciplinary Board that would ordinarily involve an in person appearance may continue by telephone or videoconferencing only.

#### MOTIONS

1. Until this order is amended or rescinded, motions may be heard by telephone or videoconference only.

#### SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES

1. Until this order is amended or rescinded, settlement conferences may be held by telephone or videoconference only.

2. Settlement conferences already completed are not subject to this order.

#### ORDERS ENTERED PRIOR TO MARCH 24, 2020

1. Orders entered prior to today, and not specifically mentioned in this order, remain in full force and effect. Obligations in stipulations, probation, diversion agreements, cost orders, and other similar orders, remain in effect and failure to comply could be grounds for discipline or other action authorized by the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct.

#### FILING AND SERVICE BY THE CLERK

1. Until this order is amended or rescinded, all filing should be done electronically, unless impossible.
2. Until this order is amended or rescinded, the Clerk may serve orders electronically, unless impossible.

#### SERVICE AND DELIVERY OF OTHER PAPERS

1. Until this order is amended or rescinded, unless personal service is required under the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct, service of papers under Title 4 of the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct may be accomplished by electronic means.
2. Until this order is amended or rescinded, all other documents, papers, and communications authorized or required under the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct may be transmitted by electronic means.


#### RELIEF

1. Any party requesting relief from this Order must electronically file a written motion with the Chief Hearing Officer (matters before a hearing officer) or Disciplinary

1 Board Chair (matters before the Disciplinary Board)

2  
3  
4 Dated this 24th day of March, 2020.

5  
6   
7 Randolph O. Petgrave III  
8 Chief Hearing Officer

9  
10   
11 Janice Sue Wang  
12 Disciplinary Board Chair