



SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

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April 2, 2020

Governor Kay Ivey
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Gov. Ivey:

As I mentioned in my March 23, 2020 letter to you, the Alabama court officials and employees, and Alabama attorneys as officers of the courts, should be considered “essential services” in any statewide closure or “shelter-in-place” orders you may issue. The trial and appellate courts are adapting as much as possible to the threats of COVID-19 while continuing to keep the courts of justice open, as is our mandate under the Alabama Constitution. I know you understand and appreciate the delicate balance of safety and service all branches of government are trying to provide to the public and their own employees in these challenging times.

As more and more neighboring states issue their statewide closure orders, I have been monitoring the exceptions written into most of those orders for not only government and government employees, but also for lawyers and the legal profession as “essential services” that must continue to serve the public. Currently, the states or territories under a statewide closure order that consider legal professionals to be “essential services” include Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. (For your legal counsel’s convenience, I will provide to him a hard copy of these statewide stay-at-home orders with the relevant portions highlighted.)

Thank you for striving to do what is right for Alabama – and in the right timing. And thank you for helping the Alabama courts and attorneys continue to establish justice and serve the great people of our State. May God guide and protect you and the State of Alabama.

Respectfully,

Tom Parker
Chief Justice

TP/bd

cc: Will Parker, Governor's Legal Advisor
Roman Shaul, General Counsel, Alabama State Bar
Todd Russell, General Counsel, Administrative Office of Courts