

MEMORANDUM

March 23, 2020

To: Members of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association and Alabama Association for Justice

From: Christina May Bolin, ADLA President and Josh Hayes, ALAJ President

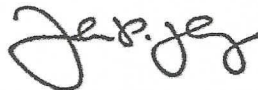
Re: COVID-19 and Technology Challenges in the Court System

We are all navigating through minute to minute changes in our profession. The practice of law is evolving right now in visible, tangible and appreciable ways. Though the courthouse doors are quite literally closed, we still must continue to advise and advocate for our clients. We are all going to lean heavily upon technology in the coming weeks. We are all likely to have to adapt or change the way we practice in some way. For that reason, it is more important than ever that we remain professional and civil in our practice. With reliance on technology comes the inevitable technical problems. With concerns about face to face meetings, expect to see requests to reschedule. Work with each other. If it is reasonable, agree to the extension. Work cooperatively with all parties and counsel on scheduling and conducting depositions. Once the courts reopen, the judges are going to be facing tremendous backlogs. Issues that could have been resolved by the lawyers prior to coming to Court are generally not well received by judges. They will likely be even less so now. Neither side can work without the other. We are all part of the process and, by working together civilly and professionally, we can ease the transitions that are happening right now. As someone once said, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Sincerely,



Christina May Bolin
ADLA President



Josh Hayes
ALAJ President