

**Appellate Division  
Supreme Court of the State of New York**

FIRST JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
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CAPITOL STATION, PO BOX 7288  
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ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14604

**A STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDING JUSTICES  
APRIL 1, 2020**

As the Presiding Justices of the Appellate Division, we are responsible for overseeing the admission of attorneys to the practice of law in our State. Due to the present and unique public health crisis, and the attendant need to reduce public interaction, the admission process, like many other proceedings in the courts and the July 2020 administration of the Bar Examination, has been paused. We are acutely aware of the impact this has had, and continues to have, on recent law graduates. We fully understand that livelihoods and aspirations of thousands of bar candidates have been disrupted and that there is much anxiety and concern about the situation.

We wish to assure all law graduates awaiting admission that we are committed to resuming the normal admissions process as soon as is possible, bearing in mind our obligation to provide a safe workspace for our employees as well as our obligation to protect and promote public health and safety. We are presently working on methods by which our admissions employees could do much of their work from their homes. We are also exploring innovative methods by which the admissions process may be expedited through the use of technology. We hope to be able to implement these new approaches in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, we urge all candidates awaiting admission to use this time, to the extent possible, to review their applications and make sure that all required materials have been, or are ready to be, submitted. By doing so, once we resume the admission process, any further delay can be avoided.

We thank you for your patience and understanding, we look forward to seeing you being admitted, and we wish you and your families the best of health at this difficult time.

Stay safe.

Respectfully,



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Hon. Rolando T. Acosta  
Presiding Justice  
Appellate Division, First Department



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Hon. Elizabeth A. Garry  
Presiding Justice  
Appellate Division, Third Department



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Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman  
Presiding Justice  
Appellate Division, Second Department



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Hon. Gerald J. Whalen  
Presiding Justice  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department