IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
ESTABLISHING THE WORK GROUP ON
THE PROFESSIONALISM COURSE AND PROFESSIONALISM CENTER

WHEREAS, Rule 11 of the Maryland Rules Governing Admission to the Bar (Rule 11) requires the development for consideration of a course on legal professionalism by a unit within the Judicial Branch, or any other quality person or entity being willing to undertake the responsibility, and approval by the Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, Maryland Rule 16-407 creates the Maryland Professionalism Center as a unit of the Maryland Judiciary and empowers it to administer the New Bar Admittees' Professionalism Course; and

WHEREAS, Rule 11 further requires the course to be presented at least twice annually under the approved plan to be implemented as directed by the Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, Rule 11 requires that individuals recommended, pursuant to Rule 10, for admission to the Bar complete the course on legal professionalism prior to their admission; and

WHEREAS, Rule 11 remains in effect until January 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Rule 11 obligates the Court of Appeals to evaluate the results of the course requirement prior to that date to determine whether to extend Rule 11; and

WHEREAS, A Judiciary Work Group has studied the Professionalism Center as part of a review prompted by the 2014 National Center for State Courts' Organizational Assessment of the Maryland Judiciary and has recommended assigning the services and functions of the Professionalism Center that are within the Judiciary's purview to the appropriate Judicial Council committee and that the

remaining services and functions be undertaken by the appropriate external entity; and

WHEREAS, The need for evaluation of the results of the course requirement to be conducted with deliberate speed and purpose exists in order for the Court of Appeals to make an informed determination as to whether Rule 11 shall continue in effect beyond January 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Professionalism Center continues to be responsible for the presentation of at least one more legal professionalism course prior to January 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The impact of any decision regarding Rule 11 must necessarily affect the Professionalism Center as it is now constituted by Rule; and the transition, if any, be planned, deliberate, and coordinated;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch, pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, § 18 of the Maryland Constitution, do hereby order this 8th day of June, 2015, effective immediately:

1. Creation. There is a Work Group on the Professionalism Course and Professionalism Center
2. Members and Advisors.
    a. Work Group. The Work Group shall consist of the following members, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals:
        i. A Court of Appeals judge, who shall serve as Chair of the Work Group;
        ii. A member of the Board of the Maryland Professionalism Center, Inc. 501(c)(3) entity;
        iii. The President of the Maryland State Bar Association or her designee;

iv. The Chair of the State Board of Law Examiners or his designee;

v. The Chair of the Attorney Grievance Commission or her designee;

vi. The Dean of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law or his designee;

vii. The Dean of the University of Baltimore Law School or his designee;

viii. The State Court Administrator or her designee;

ix. The Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure or his designee;

x. Up to three attorneys engaged in the practice of law in Maryland, including one attorney whose practice concentrations include tax-exempt, non-profit (501(c)(3)) entities.

b. Stakeholders. The Work Group may invite other professionalism stakeholders within the State to participate in the Work Group's work, through invitations to public forums, or as otherwise deemed appropriate.

c. Compensation. Work Group members are not entitled to compensation but, to the extent that budgeted funds are available, may be reimbursed for expenses in connection with travel related to the work of the Work Group.

3. Meetings.

1. Scheduling. The Work Group shall meet at least twice, at the call of the Chair, and thereafter, as necessary, prior to issuance of its Final Report.
2. Quorum. A majority of the authorized membership of the Work Group shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

4. Functions.

a. Purpose. The purpose of the Work Group is to:

(i) evaluate the results of the professionalism courses presented since 2013;

(ii) to develop recommendations regarding whether Rule 11 should be extended or allowed to expire; and

(iii) based upon the recommendation as to Rule 11, develop recommendations for any transition required for the Maryland Professionalism Center, including amendment or abrogation of Rule 16-407.

b. Duties. To carry out its purpose, the Work Group shall:

(i) Review the rules and administrative orders related to the Professionalism Course and the Professionalisms Center's role in its development and administration;

(ii) review the results of the professionalism courses presented since January 2013, including evaluations conducted by or on behalf of the Professionalism Center;

(iii) as necessary, develop a survey of bar admittees who have taken the professionalism course, for distribution via electronic means;

(iv) invite comment by members of the legal community and public;

(v) investigate potential alternatives to a professionalism course, such as standardized tests or law school coursework;

(vi) consult, as appropriate, with professionalism stakeholders within the State on the status of the Maryland Professionalism Center as a unit of the Judiciary; and

(vii) study the organizational approaches employed by professionalism consortia in other states.

5. Staff. The Work Group will be staffed by the Department of Legal Affairs of the Administrative Office of the Courts.
6. Reports. The Work Group shall submit to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals a Final Report by October 15, 2015.

/s/ Mary Ellen Barbera
Mary Ellen Barbera
Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals
Filed:

/s/ Bessie M. Decker
Bessie M. Decker
Clerk
Court of Appeals of Maryland