NAME

[OPTIONAL] TITLE/EMPLOYER

EMAIL ADDRESS

August XX, 2020

Suzanne C. Johnson

Clerk of the Maryland Court of Appeals

361 Rowe Blvd

Annapolis, MD 21401

COAClerkoftheCourt@mdcourts.gov

Re: Emergency Petition for Temporary Suspension of UBE Requirement and Order Granting Emergency Diploma Privilege Plus

Dear The Honorable Chief Judge Barbera and Associate Judges:

I, [NAME HERE], a member of the general public, am writing to express my support in granting the 2020 October bar applicants emergency diploma privilege. In light of the unforeseen global pandemic and inability to safely administer an in-person exam, the Court of Appeals correctly decided to postpone, and ultimately cancel, an in-person bar exam. However,  considering the detrimental impact job loss, financial insecurity, and housing insecurity has had on  2020 bar applicants in the midst of a recession, as well as the concern regarding the feasibility and safety of Examsoft, the software the State Board of Law Examiners has adopted for Maryland’s bar exam administration, the Court should enact emergency diploma privilege for all applicants scheduled to take the October 2020 bar examination.

As a member of the community, I firmly believe graduation from an ABA accredited law school, a passing score on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE)  and a passing score on the Maryland Law Component qualifies graduates as competent. Furthermore, the additional requirement of passing a character and fitness examination further assures the protection of the public. The aforementioned requirements are enough to instill confidence in the 2020 bar applicants’ competence and ability to promptly and diligently represent community members such as myself. I, as a member of the community who faces [PERSONAL STRUGGLE/ISSUE A NEWLY BARRED ATTORNEY COULD HELP WITH] would benefit from a Court order granting emergency diploma privilege to bar applicants and would feel confident in their representation of me.

 I thank the Court for its time and consideration on this urgent matter.

Respectfully,

[NAME HERE]