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of
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4 March 2021

The Honorable Harold D. Melton
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
Nathan Deal Judicial Center

Submitted via Electronic Mail to: meltonh@gasupreme.us

Dear Chief Justice Melton,

GACDL seeks to have guidance added to your next Judicial Emergency Order (JEO) requiring that as criminal jury trials resume, judges prioritize cases with speedy trial demands and cases where the person who is accused is being held in jail.

As you know, while this priority scheduling is stated in SB 163, GACDL feels that having this stated in the next JEO would underscore its necessity and provide direct guidance to the trial courts. GACDL suggests that your upcoming order, allowing the resumption of jury trials if local conditions and the local plan so allow, include a sentence to the effect of:

With respect to resumption of criminal jury trials, to the fullest extent possible, judges should give the highest priority to cases which have a demand for speedy trial filed, followed by cases against those accused who have been incarcerated for the longest period of time, and, finally, all other cases.

GACDL continues to appreciate all that you do for the legal system and is going to miss you considerably in July.

All my best,



Kimberly A. Dymecki
President