



The Florida Bar

Office of the President
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April 10, 2020

Mr. Nick Maddox, President
Florida Association of Counties
100 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee 32301

Mr. Isaac Salver, President
Florida League of Cities
301 South Bronough St., Suite 300
Tallahassee, 32301

Dear FAC President Maddox and FLC President Salver:

Thank you for your diligent efforts to keep Floridians safe in all of our communities during these very trying times. It is organizations like yours and ours that help members navigate the unprecedented challenges currently faced, while meeting the ongoing needs of our clients, members and constituents.

I write to ask for your active assistance in bringing an important matter to the attention of your members in our state's diverse counties, cities, and towns.

There is considerable confusion among the legal profession about Stay at Home/Safer at Home orders that only broadly address legal services. There is understandable concern about being able to continue to help your residents, our clients, with a myriad of legal services. Such necessary services include helping clients create essential estate planning documents, obtain or maintain government benefits, execute wills and health care directives, protect their families, homes, and businesses and many other time-sensitive matters not directly involving court appearances or other specific court-mandated activities.

The Florida Bar has strongly urged all lawyers to continue to carefully review and observe all orders and stay at home and work remotely to the largest extent possible and, when not possible, to strictly observe all CDC, health and governmental recommendations regarding hygiene and social distancing.

At the same time, we must be able to continue the important work of justice to ensure that all citizens can receive the legal assistance they need during these unique and challenging times.

Please consider sharing this earnest request to your members to create, amend or clarify their local orders to specifically include lawyers/law firms as "essential" businesses, without exception, or at least to the extent consistent with the Governor's Executive Order.

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Your cooperation and immediate attention to this matter are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this request further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please stay safe. Again, thank you for what you and your members do to help millions of Floridians stay safe in this unprecedented era – and for your actions to directly extend the reach and request of this message to your local government member leaders.

Sincerely,



John M. Stewart
President

cc: Virginia "Ginger" Delegal, Executive Director, Florida Association of Counties
Robert J. Sniffen, General Counsel, Florida Association of Counties
Michael Sittig, Executive Director, Florida League of Cities
Jeannie Garner, Executive Director-designate, Florida League of Cities
Kraig Conn, General Counsel, Florida League of Cities
Joshua Doyle, Executive Director, The Florida Bar
Gypsy Bailey, General Counsel, The Florida Bar