

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

SUFFOLK, ss.

OE-144

In Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic

ORDER RE: SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT RULE 3:16

In light of the ongoing and urgent public health concerns regarding the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC), pursuant to its rule-making authority, issues the following ORDER:

1. On May 14, 2020, the SJC issued a Temporary Emergency Order Re: Supreme Judicial Court Rule 3:16, which suspended until further order of the court Supreme Judicial Court Rule 3:16 and the requirement that lawyers newly admitted to the bar of the Commonwealth complete a Practicing with Professionalism Course within eighteen months of admission (May 14 Order).

2. Effective September 10, 2020, the May 14 Order is hereby repealed and Supreme Judicial Court Rule 3:16 is reinstated.

3. To accommodate lawyers who were or may be unable to comply with Supreme Judicial Court Rule 3:16 due to the prior suspension of the Rule and the unavailability of courses, lawyers admitted to the bar of the Commonwealth between September 10, 2018, and the date of this Order who have not yet completed a Practicing with Professionalism Course shall have twenty-four months from the date of their admission to do so. Lawyers admitted to the bar of the Commonwealth after the date of this Order must complete a Practicing with Professionalism Course within eighteen months of admission, in accordance with Supreme Judicial Court Rule 3:16.

4. Course providers may offer the Practicing with Professionalism Course virtually (i.e. using videoconferencing or comparable technology).

This Order shall be effective on September 10, 2020, and shall remain in effect until further order of the court.

RALPH D. GANTS)
) Chief Justice
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BARBARA A. LENK)

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FRANK M. GAZIANO) Justices
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DAVID A. LOWY)
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KIMBERLY S. BUDD)
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ELSPETH B. CYPHER)
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SCOTT L. KAFKER)

Entered: September 10, 2020
Effective: As of September 10, 2020