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*Affiliations appear only
for purposes of identification.*

By email November 5, 2020

Re: Notice and access to election lawsuit proceedings

Gregory Dunlap
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Gregory.Dunlap@pacourts.us

Dear Mr. Dunlap:

We write on behalf of the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, and journalists throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to respectfully request access to all court proceedings relating to the election. We always have been grateful for the AOPC's hard work in ensuring public access in high-profile matters – such as the Sandusky and Cosby cases – and are appreciative of its efforts as the country's eyes again turn to Pennsylvania.

The current court proceedings involving the election are, of course, of paramount importance as the country awaits the outcome of the presidential election and follows those proceedings' potential impact on the election. The public and press have a First Amendment right to review the dockets in those proceedings, review all filings in those proceedings, and attend and observe those proceedings when they are conducted (whether in court, telephonically, or via video conference).

We greatly appreciate the AOPC's efforts to post information on the courts' website quickly and to disseminate filings on Twitter and through email. But, barriers to access still exist, most notably limited public access to live court proceedings.

To ensure greater public understanding of events as they transpire, and comply with the public's right to access proceedings, we respectfully ask that the AOPC (1) post real-time docket information on all election-related cases on its website, either on the landing page or the Election 2020 page, (2) provide advance notice of any conference or hearing in those cases, and (3) provide a mechanism for the press to observe any conference or hearing.

Specifically, we understand that a decorum order in the matter of *Hamm v. Boockvar*, scheduled for a hearing at the Pennsylvania Judicial Center on Friday, Nov. 6, will provide access to some media and members of the

public. However, given the importance of the issue, we urge the court to consider livestreaming via YouTube, as routinely happens in oral argument before the Commonwealth Court. Given the national interest in this case and the other cases now pending, courts should ensure the widest scope of public access and transparency

Thank you for all of your hard work and consideration. If we can be of any assistance in facilitating these requests, please contact us.

Thank you for your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/Melissa Melewsky
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/s/Paula Knudsen Burke
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Cc: Stacey Witalec, Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts
Communications Director