

TO: All Louisiana Judges

---

As you know, Southeast Louisiana has suffered a disaster of unprecedented dimensions. The death and destruction can not be overestimated.

I know that all of you want to help in any way you can. Many of you have already called to offer space and housing for courts and staff. We thank you and assure you that space and housing needs remain great.

There are several other important ways in which you can help. Many lawyers and court staff have lost their clothes, files, contact with clients and witnesses, and vehicles. Even when they have transportation, congestion in newly overcrowded cities leads to long delays.

The Court asks that you temporarily waive the dress code normally required in your court and exercise patience with those who appear excusably late for court. In addition, please give compassionate consideration to requests for continuances in those cases where lawyers have lost contact with clients, witnesses, or staff or have files that have been destroyed or are unavailable.

Thank you for your assistance and your prayers. We will continue to communicate with you concerning the state of our courts, and we solicit your suggestions about how to rebuild our courts.