

**FIFTH CIRCUIT**

**COURT OF APPEAL**

**STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**IN RE: EMERGENCY COURT CLOSURE**

**ORDER**

Acting in accordance with La. Constitution Article V, Section 1, the inherent power of this Court, and in accordance with the COVID-19 Response Plan adopted by the Judges of this Court on March 12, 2020,

**IT IS ORDERED** that the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal courthouse building shall close at 12:00 P.M. on March 17, 2020 and reopen on April 6, 2020 at 8:30 A.M., unless the conditions warrant an earlier or later reopening date, at which time an updated Order shall be issued. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal shall remain active and will continue the business of the Court by conducting all Court operations electronically.

**IT IS FUTHER ORDERED** that this Order supersedes the Court's Order of March 14, 2020, and any previous Orders in conflict herewith.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that during the period of facility closure, the convenience fee for eFiling on the Fifth Circuit's eCourt website shall be waived. eFilings shall be processed as circumstances allow.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that during the period of facility closure, the Court shall accept emergency fax filings at (504) 576-0800 and shall process these filings as circumstances allow.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that during the period of facility closure, filings by mail shall be processed as circumstances allow.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that during the period of facility closure, the Court will not accept in-person filings.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that for purposes of computing the timeliness of filings, the period of facility closure shall be considered a legal holiday; and thus pleadings otherwise due in this Court during this legal holiday shall be due upon the date of the courthouse building's reopening.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that a notice of the foregoing shall be posted on the Court's website and at the front entrance of the courthouse.

Gretna, Louisiana, this 17th day of March, 2020.

**SMC**

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Chief Judge Susan M. Chehardy