IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA
March 12, 2020

ORDER

The Court having considered the possible threat of the coronavirus in the State of Alabama;

It is hereby ORDERED that the presiding judges are granted the authority to suspend jury trials completely or on a case by case basis for the next week, March 16 - 20.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that this Court will revisit the issue again next Friday, March 20, 2020.

Parker, C.J., and Bolin, Wise, Sellers, Mendheim, and Mitchell, JJ., concur.

Shaw, Bryan, Stewart, JJ., dissent.

Witness my hand this 12th day of March, 2020.

Clerk, Supreme Court of Alabama

FILED
March 12, 2020
4:00 pm
Clerk
Supreme Court of Alabama

cc: Rich Hobson

BRYAN, Justice (dissenting).

I respectfully dissent from this Court's decision not to order the presiding judge of each judicial circuit in the State to cancel jury trials for at least the next week, the week of March 16. In light of the nationwide spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), I believe this Court should take the extraordinary step of ordering the temporary suspension of jury trials until more comprehensive protective measures can be implemented, at which point a reassessment of the need for such suspension could be considered. Furthermore, I strongly urge the presiding judges of each circuit to consider the welfare of the most vulnerable citizens of this State when determining whether to summon dozens of citizens to a confined space for several hours simply because they received a jury summons.

Shaw and Stewart, JJ., concur.