Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC20-29

IN RE: SUSPENSION OF RESTRICTIONS ON DISTANCE LEARNING AND CONFERENCE-SPONSORED CONTINUING JUDICIAL EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS the Florida State Courts System continues to monitor and take measures to address the effects on court operations of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission; and

WHEREAS the World Health Organization has declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a pandemic, the Governor of Florida has declared a state of emergency exists, and the Surgeon General and State Health Officer has declared a public health emergency exists; and

WHEREAS Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.320 establishes certain continuing education requirements for state court justices and judges; and

WHEREAS the Florida Court Education Council has been charged by the Supreme Court of Florida with promulgating rules and standards for compliance with these continuing education requirements; and

WHEREAS the continuing judicial education policies established by the Florida Court Education Council require 15 of the 30 minimum credit hours that must be completed every three years to be earned in conference-sponsored activities and limit the number of credit hours judges may earn through participation in distance learning courses to six of the 30 minimum credit hours; and

WHEREAS the Florida State Courts System recognizes that travel limitations, local court operational challenges, and the cancellation of judicial education programs may preclude justices and judges from fully complying with the requirements specified by the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration and the requirements promulgated by the Florida Court Education Council,

NOW THEREFORE, as recommended by The Honorable Jorge Labarga, Chair of the Florida Court Education Council, and pursuant to the authority conferred upon me by article V, section 2(b), of the Florida Constitution, and Florida Rules of Judicial Administration 2.205(a)(2)(B)(iv) and 2.205(a)(2)(B)(v),

IT IS ORDERED that the restrictions on the number of continuing judicial education credits that may be obtained by sitting judges through distance learning or through non-conference sponsored programming are hereby suspended for the current continuing judicial education reporting cycle and until further order of the Chief Justice.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on April 29, 2020.

AOSC20-29 4/29/2020

Chief Justice Charles T. Canady

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ATTEST:

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John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

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