FILED
MAR 16 2020
WASHINGTON STATE
SUPREME COURT

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF TEMPORARILY CLOSING THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE BUILDING TO THE PUBLIC

ORDER

No. 25700-_____

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Washington; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak across the United States; and

WHEREAS, during this state of emergency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Washington State Department of Health strongly urge all organizations to impose social distancing measures and other restrictions on public gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the public spaces in the Temple of Justice, a historic building which houses the Washington State Supreme Court and the Washington State Law Library, cannot effectively be managed to ensure compliance with recent public health guidelines, and keeping the building open to the public poses a significant health risk to visitors, litigants, and court staff; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has suspended oral arguments until its Spring Term commencing May 5, 2020, and has no in-person court hearings scheduled before that time; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Law Library has closed its public reading rooms for public safety, while continuing to serve patrons online and by telephone; and

WHEREAS, all essential functions of the Washington State Supreme Court and the Washington State Law Library can continue uninterrupted without the Temple of Justice building remaining open to the public,

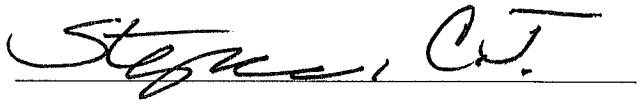
NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court's power to administer justice and to ensure the safety of court personnel, litigants, and the public,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

The Temple of Justice Building shall be closed to the public until the next scheduled oral argument on May 5, 2020. All business with the court and the library shall continue using electronic, mail, and other available means that do not require physical entry of the public into the building. (See Appendix to this order for contact information.)

DATED at Olympia, Washington, this 16th day of March, 2020.

For the Court



CHIEF JUSTICE DEBRA L. STEPHENS

Appendix to the March 16, 2020, ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE TO THE PUBLIC

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For the Washington State Law Library:

1) For reference questions, please call 360-357-2156 or email at library.requests@courts.wa.gov.

2) If you have books checked out, they will renewed during the closure. Please check the Library's website, https://www.courts.wa.gov/library/, for updates on when the Library will reopen.

For the Washington Supreme Court Clerk's Office:

1) Our main phone number is 360-357-2077 – Please leave a voice message and we will return your call

2) You can email us at: supreme@courts.wa.gov

3) Filings for the Supreme Court Clerk's Office can be made by:
   Filing through the Appellate Court's webportal:
   https://ac.courts.wa.gov/index.cfm

   Sending the filing by email to: supreme@courts.wa.gov

   Sending the filing to the Clerk's Office by U.S. mail:
   P.O. Box 40929, Olympia, WA 98504-0929

For UPS or Fedex deliveries, please call 360-357-2070