IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

March 17, 2020

NO. 20-8500-003

IN THE MATTER OF
OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL BY
JUDICIAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES
OF THE NEW MEXICO JUDICIARY DURING THE
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

ORDER

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Department of Health is urging all New Mexicans to avoid all non-essential travel to out-of-state areas affected by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and exercise extreme caution with all out-of-state travel;

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Judiciary is committed to implementing effective public health strategies designed to promote a safe environment for everyone who must visit or work in our state courthouses during the current public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, and the Court being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura, Justice Barbara J. Vigil, Justice Michael E. Vigil, Justice C. Shannon Bacon, and Justice David K. Thomson concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that suspension of all out-of-state

travel on work-related business by judicial officers and judicial employees of the New Mexico Judiciary that was directed by this Court on March 12, 2020, shall remain in effect until further order of the Court;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all judicial officers and judicial employees are strongly discouraged from traveling out-of-state on personal business and the following protective measures shall be implemented for any judicial officer or judicial employee known to have traveled out-of-state or to have been in contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19:

1. Any judicial officer or judicial employee who has traveled in the past fourteen (14) days to a high-risk COVID-19 area as defined by the New Mexico Department of Health or who has been in contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 shall not enter any courthouse or other building used by the New Mexico Judiciary for the next fourteen (14) calendar days to allow for the fourteen (14)-day period of self-isolation recommended by the New Mexico Department of Health; and

2. Any judicial officer or judicial employee who travels anywhere out-of-state for personal reasons beginning on or after March 18, 2020, shall not enter any courthouse or other building used by the New Mexico Judiciary for a period of fourteen (14) calendar days upon return to New Mexico to allow for the fourteen (14)-day period of self-isolation recommended by the New Mexico Department of Health, provided that the foregoing shall not apply to travel by a judicial officer or judicial employee to commute to and from work if that person's personal residence is in another state adjacent to New Mexico or for medical treatment for the judicial officer or employee or that person's immediate family member;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that judicial officers and judicial employees engaged in a period of self-isolation shall be permitted to work from home to the extent that their work can be performed remotely and with the permission of the

chief judge or other administrative authority of the affected individual;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that judicial employees engaged in a period of self-isolation under the terms of this order who are not able or permitted to work from home shall use annual and sick leave as administrative leave is not authorized for this purpose; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order shall remain in effect until amended or withdrawn by future order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

WITNESS, the Honorable Judith K. Nakamura, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of said Court this 17th day of March, 2020.

Joey D. Moya, Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico