Serial: 232955

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

No. 2020-AD-00001-SCT

I***N RE: EMERGENCY ORDER RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)***

CORRECTED EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER-13

The COVID-19 public health crisis has presented a multitude of challenges to the Courts of this State. As the emergency caused by COVID-19 continues, our courts have had to make adjustments while fulfilling their constitutional mandate to remain open (Miss. Const., art 3, §24), accessible (Miss. Const., art 3, §25), and to protect the rights of every citizen of our state. (Miss. Const., art 3, §§ 5, 26, 26A). The Supreme Court has entered a series of emergency administrative orders to address the disruptive effect of COVID-19 upon our courts. Despite the dangers and inconveniences presented by COVID-19, our courts remain open and continue to administer justice. At every jurisdictional level, our judges have admirably served the citizens throughout this crisis. Despite the COVID-19 crisis and subsequent disruptions caused, judges continue to conduct proceedings, including trials. Despite their best efforts, case management and docket control have suffered due to COVID-19.

This dilemma has been recognized by our President and Congress, our Mississippi Legislature, and our Governor. Fortunately, funds have been provided to ameliorate the disruptions attributable to the pandemic. This Court has received a portion of the funds made available to the State of Mississippi through the CARES Act to assist courts in administering justice without delay.

In compliance with my Constitutional duty of keeping our courts open and accessible for the administration of justice to all, and to promote timely and prompt attention to all cases, upon request, appointment of special temporary judges will be made

pursuant to the authority vested in me by Mississippi Code Section 9-1-105 (Rev. 2019). Those special temporary judges will serve to assist our sitting judges in performing their duties.

The compensation and necessary expenses incurred by the special temporary judges will be paid through the Supreme Court's AOC-CARES Act COVID-19 Fund, a special fund designed to address the unforeseen needs and risks proximately caused or contributed by COVID-19. This fund is to be used solely for services that are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency and must be incurred by December 30, 2020. Any expenses incurred after that date cannot be funded. Any unused funds must be returned to the Department of the Treasury, absent the United States Congress extending the deadline.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that upon request, I will appoint a number of special temporary judges to assist our sitting judges.

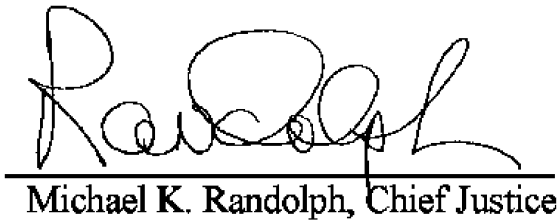
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the special temporary judge will consult with the senior judge of the county, circuit, or chancery court district to which they are appointed upon receipt of the order appointing them.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that all compensation and necessary expenses incurred by special temporary judges and approved by the Administrative Office of Courts will be paid through the Supreme Court's AOC-CARES Act COVID-19 Fund.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that all compensation and other necessary expenses incurred with respect to the COVID-19 crisis must be incurred by December 30, 2020.

SO ORDERED.

DIGITAL SIGNATURE
Order#: 232955
Sig Serial: 100002199
Org: SC
Date: 07/24/2020



Michael K. Randolph, Chief Justice