FILED
SUPREME COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON
APRIL 30, 2020
BY SUSAN L. CARLSON
CLERK

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF TEMPORARILY CLOSING THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE BUILDING TO THE PUBLIC	))))))	EXTENDED AND REVISED O R D E R No. 25700-B-621

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Washington; and on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency due to the 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 have recommended increasingly stringent social distancing measures of at least six feet between people, and encouraged vulnerable individuals to avoid public spaces; and

WHEREAS, consistent with these recommendations, Governor Inslee issued and extended a "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order directing non-essential businesses to close, banning public gatherings, and requiring Washingtonians to stay home except to pursue essential activities; 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 in-person oral arguments during its Spring Term, instead conducting oral arguments by video conference to be live-streamed and broadcast by TVW; 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 remain closed to the public until further notice. 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 30th day of April, 2020.

For the Court

Stephens, C.J.

CHIEF JUSTICE DEBRA L. STEPHENS

APPENDIX TO THE APRIL 30, 2020, ORDER CLOSING THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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) The best way to reach the Clerk's Office is by sending an email to: supreme@courts.wa.gov

2) You can also leave a voice message on our main phone line which is 360-357-2077. We check this line for voice messages several times a day.

3) Filings for the Supreme Court Clerk's Office can be made by:

   a. Filing through the Appellate Court's webportal: https://ac.courts.wa.gov/index.cfm

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

   c. 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