



COURT OPERATIONS UPDATE: October 7, 2005

The following is a listing of the latest available information regarding the operations of and proceedings before Louisiana and Mississippi courts affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

SUSPENSION OF LEGAL DEADLINES IN LOUISIANA

- On September 23, 2005, Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco issued Executive Order KBB 2005-48, which amended Executive Order KBB 2005-32, which was issued September 6, 2005, as follows:

All deadlines in legal proceedings, including liberative prescriptive and preemptive periods in all courts, administrative agencies, and boards are hereby suspended until at least October 25, 2005, including, but not limited to, non-constitutionally mandated deadlines in criminal proceedings and any such deadlines set for in the following:

1. Louisiana Civil Code;
2. Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure;
3. R.S. Title 9, Civil Code Ancillaries;
4. La. R.S. Title 13, Courts and Judicial Procedure;
5. La. R.S. Title 23, Chapter 10, Workers Compensation;
6. La. R.S. Title 40, Chapter 5 Part XXI-A, Malpractice Liability for State Services; and
7. La. R.S. Title 40, Chapter 5, Part XXIII, Medical Malpractice.”

The suspension of laws . . . shall apply statewide and in all matters, except to the extent that the suspension of deadlines in legal proceedings may hereafter be shortened or lifted, in whole or in part, by an order issued by the Louisiana Supreme Court acting in accordance with the power vested pursuant to Article V of the Constitution.

- On October 3, 2005, Chief Justice Pascal Calogero, on behalf of the Louisiana Supreme Court, signed a Resolution establishing a temporary procedure to facilitate the shortening or lifting of the suspension of legal deadlines in appropriate cases. The Resolution is effective upon signing and through October 25, 2005, and is subject to an automatic extension in the event the Governor issues any future Executive Order(s) extending the time period for the suspension of deadlines applicable to legal proceedings. It provides as follows:
 1. The judge(s) of any Louisiana court, trial or appellate, may lift or shorten the suspension periods outlined in Executive Orders KBB 2005-32 and KBB 2005-48 in the event a joint motion is filed in the pending proceeding by all parties (represented or unrepresented) in the litigation, in which all parties certify that no attorney or party to the proceeding has been adversely impacted by Hurricanes Rita or Katrina.

2. The judge(s) of any Louisiana court, trial or appellate, may lift or shorten the suspension periods outlined in the aforementioned Executive Orders in the event a joint motion is filed in the pending proceeding by all parties (represented or unrepresented) in the litigation, in which all parties certify that, notwithstanding the fact that a party or attorney has been adversely impacted by either Hurricane Katrina or Rita, the impacted party or parties are nonetheless in agreement that the suspension periods should be lifted or shortened and the legal proceeding should be allowed to proceed. In such cases, affidavits shall be appended to the joint motion by all adversely impacted parties or attorneys. The affiants should attest to their willingness to have the suspension of legal deadlines lifted or shortened.
3. Any party who is unaffected by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita, or any party that, although adversely impacted by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita, nonetheless wishes to shorten or lift the suspension of legal deadlines, may file a Rule to Show Cause, or similar Motion in criminal proceedings, asking the Court to lift or shorten the suspension of legal deadlines. Prior to filing such a Rule or Motion, the moving party shall discuss with all other parties the reasons the party or parties have for objecting to a shortening or lifting of the legal deadlines, and shall include in the Rule or Motion an explanation of the reasons any party has for objecting to the lifting or shortening of the legal deadlines.
 - a. The Rule to Show Cause or Motion shall be served on all parties to the proceeding.
 - b. Within three (3) days of service of the Rule or Motion, any party may file a written objection.
 - c. At any time after the three day period for objecting, the presiding judge or judges may render a decision on the Rule or Motion.
 - d. In assessing the Rule to Show Cause or Motion, the presiding judge or judges shall apply a rebuttable presumption that the Rule or Motion should be denied in any case in which an objecting party or attorney maintained his/her domicile or principal place of business in a Parish that was under an evacuation order for at least two days.
 - e. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the Rule to Show Cause or Motion shall be denied in any case in which an objecting party or attorney offers proof that either the objecting party or the party's attorney maintains his/her domicile or principal place of business in a Parish that was under an evacuation order at the time of the filing of the Rule or Motion. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the Rule or Motion shall also be denied in any case in which an attorney or party offers proof that he/she was displaced from his/her domicile or principal place of business for more than seven (7) days because of an evacuation order, or because damage to the attorney's or party's domicile or principal place of business caused the attorney or party to be displaced from his/her domicile or principal place of business for more than seven (7) days.
4. No party or attorney for any party shall have cause to object to a shortening or lifting of the suspension of legal deadlines pursuant to this temporary rule if neither the party, nor the party's attorney, has been adversely impacted by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita.
5. No Order lifting or shortening the suspension of legal deadlines shall serve to lift the suspension of liberative prescriptive periods or preemptive periods.

6. For purposes of this temporary rule, the term “adversely impacted” means the ability of a party or a party’s attorney to proceed with the legal proceeding has been substantially impaired by Hurricane Katrina or Rita.
7. Writs from adverse trial court decisions on any Rule to Show Cause or Motion shall be taken in accordance with law.

LOUISIANA FEDERAL COURTS

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

- The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit opened for new filings on September 21, 2005. The Court had been closed since August 26, 2005.
- The physical location for the clerk's office is Room 1217, 515 Rusk Street, Houston, Texas 77002.
- The U.S. Postal Service mailing address is P.O. Box 610160, Houston, Texas 77208.
- The mailing address for FedEx and UPS is Room 1216, 515 Rusk Street, Houston, Texas 77002.
- The clerk’s office main telephone number is (713) 250-5440. Telephone service is available from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- The Court entered an Order on September 12, 2005 that provides as follows:

For the purposes of serving and filing papers, Tuesday, October 11, 2005 is deemed the first regular business day following August 26, 2005. This treatment does not impair either the effectiveness of service of papers made during the period August 27 through October 10, 2005, or the effectiveness of the filing of papers accepted for filing during that period by the Clerk of the Court at the substitute site of the Court; however, as to any paper filed or served during that period, the deadline for responding, whether stated as a date certain or as a specified interval following service or filing, shall be extended to the later of October 25, 2005, or the first business day following the expiration of 15 days after the otherwise applicable deadline. The Clerk of the Court is instructed to promptly deny as moot any motion for extension that is obviated by the effect of the Order. Any motion for an extension beyond the times provided by the Order should be filed promptly. Parties are encouraged to confer in order that the motion may be presented as agreed. Mandates will be issued not sooner than otherwise provided by law or applicable rule or soon thereafter as the above-referenced conditions reasonably permit.

- The Court has posted oral argument schedules for September and October to be heard in Houston, Austin and Plano on its website.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

- In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Court’s website www.laed.uscourts.gov will be the primary means of communicating with the bar and the public.
- The New Orleans offices of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana are closed until further notice. By order of Chief Judge Helen G. Berrigan, all deadlines and

delays in matters pending before this court are suspended until ordered otherwise. In addition, all prescriptive periods and other time-sensitive deadlines for new litigation are likewise suspended until further notice.

- The Court has established temporary offices in Lafayette, Baton Rouge and Houma, Louisiana. If possible, all filings should be made in person or by mail to the temporary Lafayette office which is located at the following address:

Clerk of Court, Eastern District of Louisiana
102 Versailles Street Suite 501
Lafayette, LA 70501
Phone: 337-262-6700

- Filings will also be accepted in Baton Rouge at the Middle District of Louisiana's Clerk's Office and at the Eastern District Courthouse in Houma, Louisiana.
- Filings by fax (with the exception of new complaints) have also been approved until further notice. The fax number is 337-262-6776.
- If filing by fax, DO NOT mail/deliver a hard copy to the Clerk's Office.
- All displaced attorneys are asked to provide the Court with a change of address and telephone number and a current e-mail address as soon as possible.
- The Court is asking attorneys who have trials scheduled in the Eastern District of Louisiana from now until the end of the year to file a motion with the court in the Lafayette Division of the Western District 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2100, Lafayette Louisiana 70501 either in person or by mail advising if they want to keep their trial date as scheduled or if they need a continuance of their trial date, and how long a continuance they need.
- Once the court system is operational in the tri-locations, and regular motion practice resumes, oral argument should be requested only when absolutely necessary and may be conducted by conference call rather than in person because of limited courtroom availability.
- Contact information for some judges' temporary chambers --

Judge Berrigan	225-389-4030
Judges Barbier/Duval	337-593-5120
Judge Fallon	713-250-5831
Judge Feldman	225-490-6017
Judge Lemmon	985-868-4224
Judge Vance	225-389-3633
Judge Zainey	225-389-3573

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

- The office of the Clerk of Court for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana opened for filing on Thursday, September 15, 2005. It is operating at the same location as the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in Baton Rouge. The address of the Clerk's Office is:

Clerk of Court
United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana
707 Florida Street, Room 105
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

- The telephone number is (225) 389-4008.
- The court's electronic filing system is up and running. The court encourages attorneys to file electronically. If, however, electronic filing is not possible because of Hurricane Katrina, documents must be filed at the court at the above address. Please include a CD or computer disc of the documents with the filing.
- By order of Chief Judge Jerry A. Brown, all filing deadlines imposed by the Federal Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Bankruptcy Rules, and orders of this court are extended until September 26, 2005. Trial and hearing dates will be rescheduled at a later date.
- All hearings, trials, motion days, and meetings of creditors set through the end of September 2005 are CANCELLED. Section B matters, however, may be rescheduled with the consent of all parties as per the attached dates.
- Motions will be heard according to the local rules and should be noticed for hearing at the following location:

U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Eastern District of Louisiana
707 Florida Street
Visiting Judges Courtroom, Room 107
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

- For motion days and hearings scheduled for October, the movant/plaintiff must:
 - (1) contact opposing counsel or interested parties to confirm availability for the hearing; and
 - (2) file a certificate of service 8 days prior to the hearing that opposing counsel or interested parties are available to attend the hearing and that it will not constitute an undue hardship to the parties to conduct the hearing.

Unless this is done, the court will not hear the case, and the movant/plaintiff must renotice the motion for another day.

- The available motion days are as follows:

Section B - Chief Judge Jerry A. Brown's motion days:

Wednesday, September 21 at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, September 28 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 9, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 16, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 30, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 7, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 21, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 28, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Matters in the following cases must be set at 2:00 p.m.:
00-10992 - Babcock & Wilcox Co., and related cases
05-10137 - Torch Offshore Inc. and related cases

Section A - Judge Elizabeth Magner's motion days:

Tuesday October 4, 2005
Tuesday October 11, 2005
Tuesday October 25, 2005

Tuesday November 8, 2005
Tuesday November 15, 2005
Tuesday November 22, 2005
Tuesday November 29, 2005

Hearings should be set for 9:00 a.m., except that lift stays should be set at 9:15 a.m.

Beginning October 25, 2005, all Section A lift stay hearings will be heard at 2:00 p.m.

- By order of the Court, the Interim Rules prepared by the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules are adopted in their entirety without change by the judges of this court to be effective October 17, 2005, to conform with the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005; for cases and proceedings not governed by the Act, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, other than the Interim Rules, shall apply.
- For questions regarding operations at the United States Trustees Office, go to the United States Trustee's Office, Region 5 website, which is located at: www.usdoj.gov/ust/r05.
- For information about Chapter 13 cases, check the website for S.J. Beaulieu, Jr., the Chapter 13 Trustee, at: <http://www.13network.com/trustees/nor/norhome.asp>

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

- Electronic filing, electronic noticing, and PacerNet access are running.
- Due to Hurricane Katrina: All notices and orders to following Zip Codes 700xx 701xx, 704xx, 369xx, 393xx, 394xx, 395xx and 396xx will be delivered via U.S. Mail and E-mail until further notice.

- Since the court maybe unable to verify electronic service of pleadings filed with the court for several days, it is advising all counsel of record to serve opposing counsel via U.S. Mail.
- Please notify the Court of any change of mailing or email address.
- The courthouse is open for traditional paper filing.
- The Middle District is now accepting filings for the Eastern District of Louisiana. To speak with an EDLA clerk, please dial 225-389-3531.
- Judge Polozola issued an Order dated September 15, 2005 in the following matters that “all deadlines set by the District Court in these matters are hereby suspended until counsel of record can certify to the Court all names and addresses of affected parties and that all affected parties are ready to proceed in their case.”

Sherwood Plaza Shopping Center, et al v. Shell Oil Co., et al	#03-236-FJP-DLD
Ronelle Wilkinson v. John Potter, Postmaster General	#04-93-FJP-SCR
Anthony C. Miller v. Triplex, Inc.	#04-694-FJP-CN
Rebecca Christian, et al v. Paretti Motor Company, Inc., et al	#04-849-FJP-DLD
Robert C. Blount v. The United States of America	#04-857-FJP-SCR
Lawrence Todd Landry v. Swift Leasing, et al	#04-865-FJP-DLD
Zachary Wheat v. Eckerd Corporation	#05-117-FJP-SCR
Kwame P. Paul c/o Linda Payton v. Jo Anne B. Barnhart, et al	#05-127-FJP-DLD
Jane Brodie v. Dolgencorp, Inc., d/b/a Dollar General	#05-195-FJP-DLD
Eugene Barber v. The Shaw Group, Inc. Corporation	#05-211-FJP-DLD
State Farm Mutual Automobile Ins. Co., et al v. Ford Motor	#05-218-FJP-CN
Harvey J. Cooper, Jr., et al v. John Grady Melancon, et al	#05-277-FJP-SCR
Aimee D. Walker v. National Union Fire Ins. Co.	#05-303-FJP-SCR
Susan J. Monahan, M.D. v. Sunlife Assurance Group of Canada	#05-356-FJP-SCR
Ricky Thompson v. The Standard Insurance Company	#05-357-FJP-DLD
Carolyn Mercer v. Lincoln General Insurance Company	#05-851-FJP-CN
Melinda K. Colson a/k/a Melinda K. Holmes v. Experian	#05-855-FJP-DLD
Diane Christy v. Jo Anne B. Barnhart, et al	#05-902-FJP-DLD
North American Company for Life and Health Ins. v. Delando R. Brass, et al	#05-964-FJP-DLD
P. Nick Martina v. Budget Rent A Car System, Inc.	#05-969-B-M1
Wade Gabriel v. Ormet Primary Aluminum Corp.	#05-1002-FJP-SCR
Elvin Sterling, Sr. v. Safeco Insurance Company	#05-1056-FJP-DLD
Henry Stewart, Jr., et al v. Mississippi Nitrogen Inc., et al	#05-1070-FJP-DLD

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

- Statement of Alexandria, Monroe, and Shreveport Divisions on Cases Affected by Hurricane Katrina –

Attorneys who are in need of extensions, relief from existing deadlines, or other accommodations because of Hurricane Katrina are asked to contact chambers of the judge to whom the case is assigned, either in writing or by telephone. All judges are willing to work with attorneys on fashioning an appropriate solution in each case. Counsel who are able to

communicate with chambers in cases in which opposing counsel have difficulties are asked to take the lead in this effort.

- In the Lafayette Division, all court proceedings between Monday, September 26 and Wednesday, September 28th were cancelled, to be rescheduled at a later date. The Lafayette Division Clerk's office is open for regular business.
- The Lake Charles Division Courthouse is CLOSED until further notice. By Order of Chief Judge Richard Haik and Judge Patricia Minaldi, all deadlines in Criminal and Civil cases in the Lake Charles Division are suspended. All court proceedings previously set are CONTINUED WITHOUT DATE.
- The Alexandria Division Courthouse is now OPEN. All Court proceedings set in the Alexandria Division for Monday, Sept. 26 through Wednesday, Sept. 28th were cancelled, to be rescheduled at a later date.
- Judge Tucker L. Melancon issued a memo dated September 9, 2005 to attorneys of record in cases over which Judge Melancon presides, stating:

“It is my intention to ease, to the extent possible, the unprecedented suffering and havoc caused by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. As an attorney of record, I would appreciate you advising me by letter directed to chambers at 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 4700, Lafayette, Louisiana 70501, if, in your view, any of your cases over which I preside involve lawyers and/or parties who have been or *may have been* affected by Hurricane Katrina and/or its aftermath. Please set out the case name and number as well as the name address and telephone numbers of all attorneys of record. I would appreciate it if you would respond to this letter as soon as possible, preferably no later than September 20, 2005 if at all possible.”

“In the interim, I assure you that I will grant all necessary and appropriate relief to existing deadlines and trial dates to affected lawyers and parties. No affected lawyer nor lawyer's affected client should make litigation pending before me a priority at this time.”

- Judge Donald E. Walter issued the following notice:

In cases assigned to Judge Walter, all deadlines are extended until October 6 in cases involving attorneys affected by Hurricane Katrina. Any suspension of deadlines in other cases will need a motion and will be dealt with on an individual basis as is the normal practice.

- Judge Patricia Minaldi issued the following notice:

All deadlines and fixings in civil cases assigned to Judge Minaldi which fall in the month of October, 2005, have been suspended. Any case in which all parties agree to move forward should be brought to Judge Minaldi's attention for placement on the calendar. Judge Minaldi will be temporarily located in the United States Courthouse in Lafayette, La. at:

800 Lafayette Street
Suite 3900
Lafayette, La. 70501
337 593-5302

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

- The Alexandria Divisional Office was closed September 26, 2005, beginning at noon, and on September 27, 2005. All court (hearings, conferences and 341's) will be rescheduled.
- An Order issued with respect to cases assigned to the Lake Charles Divisions provides that in such cases, whether presently pending or filed during the effective period of the Order, which is September 23, 2005 until October 31, 2005, all court-imposed deadlines and delays are suspended; all statutory time limits (i) for filing contested matters and adversary proceedings, and (ii) imposing filing requirements on debtors are suspended; in those cases where motions relief from stay are pending, the automatic stay shall remain in full force and effect. Notwithstanding the above, and on good cause shown, the court may entertain motions seeking relief from the foregoing suspensions. In addition, all court hearings scheduled on Thursday, September 29, 2005 were continued and refixed to October 20, 2005. Hearing will be held in the Bankruptcy Courtroom, First Floor, 214 Jefferson Street, Lafayette, Louisiana. Chapter 13 matters will be heard at 10:30 a.m. and Chapter 7 and 11 matters will be heard at 2:30 p.m. The October 20, 2005 session of court will be held in the Bankruptcy Courtroom, First Floor, 214 Jefferson Street, Lafayette, Louisiana. Chapter 13 matters will be heard at 9:00 a.m. and Chapter 7 and 11 matters will be heard at 2:00 p.m.
- An Order issued with respect to cases assigned to the Lafayette and Opelousas Divisions provides that in such cases, whether presently pending or filed during the effective period of the Order, which is September 23, 2005 until October 31, 2005, all court-imposed deadlines and delays are suspended; all statutory time limits (i) for filing contested matters and adversary proceedings, and (ii) imposing filing requirements on debtors are suspended; in those cases where motions relief from stay are pending, the automatic stay shall remain in full force and effect. Notwithstanding the above, and on good cause shown, the court may entertain motions seeking relief from the foregoing suspensions.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER FOR FEDERAL COURTS

- Louisiana's federal courts, in conjunction with the state and federal bar associations, have authorized a Communications Center to assist lawyers displaced by Hurricane Katrina in reestablishing contact with the federal courts and their fellow lawyers. On September 13, 2005 Chief Judge Richard T. Haik, on behalf of the Judges of the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, issued an order appointing a Special Master for a four month period "to assist attorneys with communication and coordination with the court." In issuing his order, Judge Haik recognized that Hurricane Katrina has caused "disruption of the legal system" giving rise to the need for assistance in locating lawyers and keeping them abreast of the status of the cases that they are handling in Louisiana's federal courts.
- The Communications Center is located at 810 South Buchanan, Lafayette, Louisiana and can be reached either by phone at 1-866-456-8297 and 337-235-2444 or by e-mail at gary_zwain@laspecialmaster.com or sylvia_lowe@laspecialmaster.com.
- The Center offers the following services to displaced lawyers:
 - For those attorneys without permanent or stable contact information, the Center will facilitate the creation of an e-mail address which will serve as the lawyer's address for all electronic communications issued by the courts concerning his or her federal cases;

- By notifying the Communications Center of his/her new or temporary contact information, an attorney may be assured that his/her information will be forwarded to all the federal courts in Louisiana, and that other, non-displaced lawyers in his/her cases will have access to that information as well;
- If an attorney's file has been destroyed or damaged, the Communications Center will assist the attorney in having PACER print charges temporarily waived. In this manner, an attorney may obtain copies of documents filed into the court records free of charge;
- The Special Master may assist in the reconstruction of any lost and/or destroyed files in cases where counsel has been appointed pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3006A. Further, the Special Master may make efforts to collect information so as to facilitate contact between criminal defendants, their attorneys and the Federal Public Defenders Office;
- Due to the Hurricane, the judges and court staff for the Eastern District courts located in New Orleans are in the process of relocating. The Center will provide updates regarding contact information for Eastern District judges as it becomes available;
- The Center will supply upon request by a displaced lawyer a complete listing of those cases the lawyer has pending before the Western District, including a listing of all notices and orders filed in those cases since the Hurricane. As soon as the Eastern and Middle Districts offer the same capability, similar lists will be offered for those districts as well;
- For those displaced lawyers whose cases require immediate attention, the Center will facilitate contacts with the appropriate displaced judge, magistrate or other court personnel;
- The Center will provide a central location by which to access relevant general orders or notices issued by the courts, as well as pertinent legislation, announcements or developments that may bear upon the reconstruction of our legal system.

LOUISIANA STATE COURTS

LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 25, 2005. [Note that this is an extension of the previously published September 9 and October 1 dates.]
- In closure orders issues in early September, the Court ordered that filings due during the period of closure will be deemed timely if filed within 5 days of notice of resumption of "normal Court operations." While this language has not been repeated in more recent orders, it does not appear to have been expressly rescinded in any order.
- Oral arguments scheduled for September 5-8, 2005 were postponed.
- Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. announced that the Supreme Court will reopen at its French Quarter location as soon as practical. According to Chief Justice Calogero, the Courthouse at 400 Royal Street in New Orleans sustained minimal damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. While the courthouse, as with most French Quarter property, did

not receive flood waters, the basement in the building did take on some water, and some damage was caused by a loss of power to the pumps in the basement and the rising water table beneath the building. That minor amount of water has been pumped out of the basement and some records have been removed for preservation. Cleaning and examination of mechanical and electrical equipment is being overseen by the State's Division of Administration and should be completed in the near future. Chief Justice Calogero stated, "Our employees will return to the courthouse and we will be open for business as soon as we have been assured that it is safe to do so. I look forward to calling Court to order once again at 400 Royal Street."

- The Supreme Court of Louisiana is temporarily located at 1600 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802.
- During the Louisiana Supreme Court's closure, mail may be sent to the following addresses:

Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's Office
P.O. Box 44129
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR), Families In Need of Services (FINS) and Drug Court Programs
P.O. Box 44128
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Phone #: 225-382-3180

E-mail: louisianasupremecourt@yahoo.com

- While the Supreme Court has suspended the usual processing of filings, as well as consideration of writ applications and entertaining oral arguments, through October 25, 2005, the Supreme Court's Justices, Judicial Administrator, Clerk of Court, and supervisory personnel have been working since Hurricane Katrina at its temporary location at the First Circuit Court of Appeal in Baton Rouge. The Court has been handling administrative matters and offering assistance to local courts affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in their efforts to return to normal operations.
- For attorneys who wish to register a change of address, the Supreme Court of Louisiana has authorized the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) to receive change of address information on its web site, located at www.lsba.org.
- An unsigned memorandum to all Louisiana judges appears on the Supreme Court's website asking judges to "temporarily waive the dress code normally required in your court" and exercise patience with those who appear excusably late for court." In addition, judges are asked to give "compassionate consideration to requests for continuances in those cases where lawyers have lost contact with clients, witnesses or staff or have files that have been destroyed or are unavailable."

LOUISIANA FIRST CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEAL

The Clerk's Office has issued the following "Filing Guidelines for 'Affected Cases' due to Hurricane Katrina":

General

- The guidelines below are being used by the First Circuit Court of Appeal Clerk's Office and only relate to the documents due that are marked timely or late upon filing when there is no immediate interaction with the Court at that time.
- Any rehearing applications relate to dismissals prior to consideration on the merits by the Court. There are no rehearing deadlines on cases that the Court decided in August that fall during the week of August 27th through Sept 2nd.
- Also, note that the Clerk's Office does not determine whether a writ application is filed timely or late. All writ applications filed are routed to a Court panel. The reference in the guidelines below to the writ application extension concerns only the collection of the fee.
- "Affected case" means a case involving a court that is in an area that is not functional or involving an attorney in a non-functional area, such as Orleans, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, etc. For the most part, this will be a "good judgment" call for the Clerk's Office. All actions taken by the Clerk's Office are subject to review by the Court if there is not a "meeting of the minds" in regard to the Clerk's Office's designations.

Dates/Fees for Filing Documents

- Monday and Tuesday, August 29 and 30, 2005 are "holidays" for filing purposes.
- All documents, except rehearing applications, answers or other document with a due date established by law, due on any day from August 27, 2005 through September 5, 2005 will be considered timely if filed on or before Tuesday, September 6, 2005. If an extension is presented for one of these document due, it will be processed; however, a request for an extension does not have to be filed provided the document due is filed on or before September 6, 2005. Fees for extensions of briefing deadlines will be suspended from August 27, 2005, through September 5, 2005 (in the event the filing cannot be made by September 6, 2005).
- The Clerk's Office will review all recently lodged cases for due dates for briefs on cases involving "affected cases" and will automatically suspend briefing until further notice. The list of "affected cases" with suspended briefing will be posted to the web-site LA-FCCA.ORG. This list will be reviewed periodically and updated with briefing resumed when the case is no longer on the "affected case" list. (To reduce the potential number of extensions, notices of abandonment, rehearing applications, etc. for those who may be non-functional for several months).
- After September 6, 2005, for those not on the list of "affected cases", each situation will be handled on a "case-by-case" basis to determine timeliness for the filing. A fee for an extension of briefing deadlines may be suspended on a case-by-case basis for a newly-discovered "affected case."
- Fees for extensions of due dates for writ applications will be suspended on a case-by-case basis for "affected cases."
- All rehearing applications, answers or other document with a statutory deadline will be filed according to regular rules. If "late", the pleading will be marked as such and a "show cause" issued so the Court can determine whether or not the pleading can be considered in light of Hurricane Katrina circumstances.

- The court asks attorneys to call the Clerk's Office at 225-382-3000 with any questions about the docket for September, or, if your case is scheduled for oral argument and you do not plan to be here. The Clerk's Office will assist you with any message or request that you wish to present to the Court in regard to the scheduled arguments.

LOUISIANA THIRD CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEAL

- Closed from September 23, 2005 through October 14, 2005 (by order of the Court signed September 27, 2005).
- Filings due during the period of closure will be deemed timely filed if filed within 10 business days of the resumption of "normal Court operations."
- All cases scheduled to be heard September 27, 2005 will be rescheduled with notice of reset to affected parties. All cases scheduled to be heard on October 5, 6, 11, and 12, 2005 have been rescheduled for December 5, 6, 7, and 8, 2005, respectively. Notice of reset will be given. Panel compositions remain as originally fixed.
- The closure does not affect the Court's administration of emergency matters.
- All emergency writs should be filed with Judge James T. Genovese's office at fax #337-942-2191. Please call Judge Genovese's office at (337) 942-4240 prior to faxing emergency writ.
- To contact the Louisiana Third Circuit Court of Appeal:

131 S. Court Street
Opelousas, LA 70570
(337) 942-4240
louisianathirdcircuit@yahoo.com

LOUISIANA FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEAL

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 25, 2005, pending further orders of the Court. [Note that this is an extension of the earlier October 1 date.]
- The Court will only accept "emergency filings" during this period of suspension of normal court activities.
- Contact info:
Phone #: 318-227-3700
4th Circuit e-mail: louisianafourthcircuit@yahoo.com
- All attorneys or parties with a case on the calendar for the Fourth Circuit in September and October are postponed until further notice.

LOUISIANA FIFTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEAL

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 1, 2005.

- Open for business during regular office hours beginning October 3, 2005 at the courthouse in Gretna.
- According to a press release from the Court, “[a]lthough the building had some minor damages, the court will not be hampered by the repair work which is confined to one or two offices.”
- Due to Hurricane Katrina upsetting the Court Dockets for September and October, the entire docket for September is re-set for Monday, November 7 to Thursday, November 10; and the entire docket for October is reset for Monday, December 5 to Thursday, December 8. The Clerk’s Office shall give the necessary notices to all attorneys affected by the above.
- All attorneys are welcome to contact the Court as usual. The Clerk of Court’s telephone number is (504) 376-1400.

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT, ORLEANS PARISH

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 1, 2005.
- The Court and parochial offices normally housed in the Civil Court Building in New Orleans will be open to conduct legal business beginning Monday, October 3, 2005, at a new temporary location. The parochial officials, specifically the Clerk of Civil District Court, the Clerks of First and Second City Courts, the Civil Sheriff of Orleans Parish, and the Constable of Orleans Parish will resume operations on this date. The Recorder of Mortgages, the Register of Conveyances, and the Office of Notarial Archives will resume operations on October 10, 2005. Each of the above named agencies will receive filing intake for their respective offices at 1056 East Worthy Street, Gonzales, Louisiana. (Ascension Parish).
- Judges will be available to sign necessary pleadings, to conduct contradictory, hold conferences and conduct non-jury civil trials agreed to by all parties and the court and/or handle any other appropriate matter. The Clerk of Court’s office will direct you to each judge’s chamber. In addition, the judges may schedule any matter he/she deems necessary at 453 South Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (the Pardon Board Offices) or any other agreed to site.
- The operating hours for the court and the parochial offices shall be 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For general information, call 225-342-1687.
- Phone numbers for the specific parochial offices and the court will be posted Friday, October 7, 2005.
- All previously scheduled pre-Hurricane Katrina matters are canceled unless the judge in his/her sound discretion specifically notices counsel otherwise.
- According to a press release from the Court, “[m]assive evacuation has crippled the ability to confect an appropriate jury. Therefore, absolutely no jury trials shall proceed. Furthermore, no jury trials will be scheduled until further notice.”
- According to a press release from the Court, “[t]ime-sensitive case deadlines, prescription and preemption have been suspended by order of Governor Kathleen Blanco and the State Supreme Court until October 25, 2005 or unless extended otherwise by Executive Order.”

- According to a press release from the Court, “[d]espite rumors to the contrary, ALL RECORDS housed in the Civil Court building remain intact.”
- According to a press release from the Court, “the judges of the Court En Banc are well aware that in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we will be presented with a number of unique and novel legal issues. The judges are committed to applying the concepts of fairness, equity and due process to address these issues. By adhering to these fundamental concepts we are certain justice will be achieved.”

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT, ORLEANS PARISH

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 1, 2005.
- Until further notice, the Judicial Administrator’s Office will be located on the Southern University Campus in Baton Rouge, LA in the William W. Stewart Hall, Building 106, Room 156. The office phone numbers are: (225) 771-5986 and (225) 771-2207. The fax number is (225) 771-2371. E-mail can be addressed to: estogner@criminalcourt or rkazik@criminalcourt.org
- Magistrate Court is currently being held at Hunt Correctional Center in St. Gabriel, LA. Beginning Monday, September 26, 2005, Magistrate Court will be held at the Detention Center located in the Union Passenger Terminal in New Orleans with daily sessions starting at 10:00 a.m.
- The Court is completing an application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which seeks assistance in establishing a temporary court complex in Algiers, LA. The proposed complex would also provide ancillary offices for the Orleans Parish District Attorney, the Public Defenders Office, the New Orleans City Attorney and the Orleans Parish Clerk of Court.
- All court employees, probated clients and defendants on bond need to contact the Judicial Administrator’s office. Information about treatment locations for Specialty Court clients can also be obtained by contacting the Judicial Administration.
- According to a press release issued by the Court, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court is expected to be closed for at least one year, however the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the National Historic Landmark will be held in April of 2006.

14TH JDC, CALCASIEU PARISH

- Closed from September 26, 2005 through October 9, 2005, unless further extended, by order of Judge Mike Canaday, Chief Judge, and concurred in by Lynn Jones, Clerk of Court.

15TH JDC, LAFAYETTE, ACADIA AND VERMILION PARISHES

- Ordered closed on September 23, 2005 due to Hurricane Rita.
- The Lafayette Parish courthouse re-opened for regular business on September 26, 2005.
- The Vermilion Parish courthouse was ordered closed for the entire week of September 26-30, 2005.

- The Acadia Parish courthouse was ordered closed from September 26-28, to re-open for regular business on September 29, 2005. All court proceedings in Acadia Parish for the week of September 26-30 were cancelled, to be rescheduled by the various affected divisions of the Court.

22ND JDC, ST. TAMMANY AND WASHINGTON PARISHES

- The St. Tammany's Clerk's Office was closed from August 29, 2005 through September 5, 2005. It began taking filings September 6, 2005, with the court schedule resuming on Monday, September 12, 2005.
- The Washington Parish Clerk's Office closed from August 29, 2005 and re-opened on Monday, September 12, 2005.

24TH JDC, JEFFERSON PARISH

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 10, 2005. [Note that this is an extension of the earlier October 1 date.]
- The Court is scheduled to re-open on October 11, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.
- With leave of court, the Court will entertain emergency matters that arise between August 29, 2005 through October 10, 2005.
- The following judges and commissioners will act as duty judge and commissioner. The judges' duty phone number is 481-1048. Other duty phone numbers may be obtained on the Twenty-fourth Judicial District Court web site.

September 12 through September 15, 2005

Judge Fredericka Homberg Wicker

O: 504-364-3859

C: 505-421-9272

C: 662-513-6490

Domestic and criminal matters:

Commissioner Patricia Joyce

O: 364-3927

C: 319-6523

September 15, 2005 through September 18, 2005

Judge Rosa P. LaDart

O: 364-3959

Duty phone: 481-1048

Domestic and criminal matters:

Commissioner Patricia Joyce

O: 364-3927

C: 319-6523

September 19, 2005 through September 25, 2005

Judge Hans J. Liljeberg

O: 364-3940
Duty phone: 481-1048

Criminal matters:
Commissioner Caroline R. Kiff
O: 364-3927
C: 343-2492

Domestic matters:
Commissioner Patricia Joyce
O: 364-3927
C: 319-6523

September 26, 2005 through October 2, 2005

Judge Ross P. LaDart
O: 364-3959
Duty phone: 481-1048

Domestic and Criminal matters: Commissioner Patricia Joyce
O: 364-3927
C: 319-6523

October 3, 2005 through October 10, 2005

Judge Joan S. Bengé
O: 364-3850
Duty phone: 481-1048

Criminal matters: Commissioner-Caroline R. Kiff
O: 364-3927
C: 343-3492

Domestic matters:
Commissioner Patricia Joyce
O: 364-3927
C: 319-6523

*There may be a change in the duty domestic commissioner by further court order.

- With regard to arrests made on Grande Isle:

From August 29, 2005 through October 10, 2005, these individuals will continue to be booked in LaFourche Parish, Judge Jerome Barbera of the Seventeenth Judicial District Court for LaFourche Parish will continue to set these bonds as Super Numereri judge.

Judge Jerome J. Barbera, III
O: 446-0517

- The following judges and administrators may be contacted with questions:

James H. Dempsey Court Administrator
O: 364-3990

C: 628-6056

Judge Robert A. Pitre, Jr., Chief Judge

O: 364-3895

C: 850-288-1544

Judge Fredericka Homberg Wicker

O: 364-3859

C: 421-9272

C: 662-513-6490

H: 831-9070

- Judge Jerome Barbera, III, 17th Judicial District Court, Parish of Lafourche, was appointed Judge supernumerary of the 24th Judicial District Court.
- Between September 22, 2005 and October 11, 2005 the Duty judge and commissioners shall sit in the chambers of Judge Robert M. Murphy:

General Government Building
200 Derbigny Street
Third Floor
Gretna, LA 70153
Office phone: 364-3876

During this period the personnel attached to each duty judge and commissioner will likewise be located in the chambers of Judge Robert M. Murphy.

- **DUTY JUDGE CHANGE:**

September 26, 2005 through October 2, 2005

Judge Henry G. Sullivan

O: 364-3935

Duty phone: 481-1048

- **AS TO CRIMINAL MATTERS:**

The Twenty-fourth Judicial District Court will continue to handle criminal matters in cases in which jurisdiction and venue lie in Jefferson Parish and the Twenty-fourth Judicial District court.

The Jefferson Parish Community Correction Center (JPCC) will house no prisoners overnight until further notice.

Information regarding the bonds set for Jefferson Parish prisoners may be obtained from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff at 374-7700.

Bonds for Jefferson Parish prisoners shall be made at:

The Jefferson Parish Community Correction Center
200 Dolhonde Street

Gretna, LA 70153
Phone: 374-7700

The Duty Criminal Commissioner shall set all bonds, review all probable cause affidavits, and preside over all first appearance hearings as in non-emergency times.

All Jefferson Parish prisoners who are housed in incarceration facilities in other parishes and are being released from incarceration shall be transported by the Jefferson Parish Sheriff from the facility to the JPCC for release to their home, family or safe harbor.

In those matters in which a hearing is required the matter shall be set for a hearing in a reasonable time. The hearings will take place in Judge Murphy's courtroom or in the courtroom located in the JPCC as appropriate. As Jefferson Parish prisoners are housed in facilities across the state, the prisoners shall, except in extraordinary circumstances attend the hearings by phone. Defense attorneys may attend by phone from the prison facility along with the defendant or the courtroom with the judge.

Defendants charged with misdemeanors or non-violent felony offenses such as violations of 14:71 (worthless checks) and who have been attached and ordered held without bond may, given the extraordinary overcrowding condition created in the Louisiana Department of Corrections and other parish facilities by the emergency housing of Jefferson Parish prisoners, be released as described above with a court date.

All defendants shall, where a court date is necessary, be ordered to appear in the appropriate division of court on Friday, October 14, 2005 to have the matter set on the division's actual court calendar.

- **Criminal, Civil and Domestic matters:**

All emergency pleadings may be filed, with leave of court, through the assigned duty clerk. The duty clerks shall be available Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the chambers of Judge Robert M. Murphy. These matters will be set for a hearing, when necessary, in a reasonable time.

Emergencies which arise after hours shall be addressed directly to the duty Judge or Commissioner who will contact staff as necessary.

All matters not specifically addressed by this order shall be addressed to the duty Judge who will direct the action thereafter.

- **PERSONNEL SHALL BE ASSIGNED TO THE DUTY JUDGES AS FOLLOWS:**

Duty Secretary: September 19, 2005 through September 25, 2005:

Andy Gallano: H: 341-4646; C: 7234-2605 [cell number appears with 8 digits in Order]

September 26, 2005 through October 2, 2005:

Donna Randazzo: H: 340-7471; C: 458-1261

October 3, 2005 through October 10, 2005:

Sandra Laborie: H: 368-2666; C: 638-7322

Duty Law Clerks: Daniel Mitternight C: 601-870 [number is incomplete in Order] and David Franco C: 261-6562

Civil clerk: shall be assigned by Karen McEvers: C: 583-0767
C: 583-1884

Criminal clerk: shall be assigned by Darcy Griffin: C: 504-812-7360
H: 318-238-3340
H: 504-366-6353

Yvonne Lopes: H: 366-6739
C: 289-4916

Misty Choate: H: 366-6739
C: 390-2445

Court Reporter: shall be assigned by John Anderssen: H: 443-6269
C: 390-2445

Thursday, 9/22/05 Flo Bond H: 736-9330
C: 421-8439

Friday, 9/23/05 Sandy Rojas H: 689-2318

Saturday, 9/24/05 Don Theriot C: 400-7447

Sunday, 9/25/05 – 9/27/05 John Anderssen H: 443-6269
C: 390-2445

Wednesday, 9/28/05 Angela Delchmann H: 454-0639
C: 452-3055

Thursday, 9/29/05 Martha Duley H: 341-2623
C: 650-0279

Friday, 9/30/05 Lisa Thurman H: 985-871-7424
C: 985-807-7057

Saturday, 10/1/05 John Anderson H: 443-6269
C: 390-2445

Sunday, 10/2/05 John Anderson H: 443-6269
C: 390-2445

Monday, 10/3/05 Cherie Juneau H: 469-1533
C: 458-0777

Tuesday, 10/4/05 Donna Damico H: 347-7873
C: 481-1131

Wednesday, 10/5/05	Karla Musso	H: 461-8165 C: 237-2873
Thursday, 10/6/05	Karen Frazer	H: 837-4746 C: 453-1237
Friday, 10/7/05	John Anderson	H: 443-6269 C: 390-2445
Saturday, 10/8/05	John Anderson	H: 443-6269 C: 390-2445
Sunday, 10/9/05	John Anderson	H: 443-6269 C: 390-2445
Monday, 10/10/05	John Anderson	H: 443-6269 C: 390-2445
Bailiff	Warren Lanassa	H: 341-4545 C: 921-0262

Duty Assistant District Attorney: Shall be assigned by Paul D. Connick

Duty Indigent Defender: Shall be assigned by Tracey Glorioso: C: 339-2995

Joseph Marino has volunteered to act as Indigent Defense attorney: 975-0505

Duty Court Administrator: shall be assigned by James H. Dempsey, Twenty-fourth

Judicial District Court Administrator: O: 364-3990; C: 628-6056

Those who are on duty who are not required to be in the courthouse from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. must call in hourly.

25TH JDC, PLAQUEMINES PARISH

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 1, 2005.
- *The Advocate* reported that some court business, apparently only for criminal matters, resumed on September 15, 2005 in the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison.

29TH JDC, ST. CHARLES PARISH

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through September 11, 2005.
- The Court opened for business beginning Monday, September 12, 2005.

33rd JDC, ALLEN PARISH

- Closed from September 25, 2005 through October 2, 2005.

34TH JDC, ST. BERNARD PARISH

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 1, 2005.

FIRST AND SECOND CITY COURTS, ORLEANS PARISH

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 1, 2005.

JUVENILE COURT, ORLEANS PARISH

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 1, 2005.
- The Chief Judge acts for the Court until a meeting en banc can be held.
- Emergency hearings at a location convenient to the child's location or by telephone or video conference can be conducted on a case by case basis as deemed in the best interest of the child.

MUNICIPAL COURT, ORLEANS PARISH

- Open for the limited purpose of hearing arraignments and motions for all sections on October 3, 2005 at 10:00 am. All ordered previously rendered that are in conflict as to the re-opening date have been set aside. [It was previously announced that the Court would be closed until October 22, 2005.]
- The Court shall be temporarily housed in the Greyhound/Amtrak Station in New Orleans.
- The Judges may be contacted at the following numbers for the signing of emergency orders and motions:

Judge Bruce J. McConduit, Chief Judge (225) 615-1060 or (504) 450-6205

Judge John A. Shea (504) 427-7151

Judge Paul N. Sens (504) 512-7172

Judge Sean Early (504) 256-8595

- The Clerk of Court, Ronald Lampard, may be reached at (504) 583-9650.

TRAFFIC COURT, ORLEANS PARISH

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 1, 2005.

FIRST PARISH COURT, JEFFERSON PARISH

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 1, 2005.

SECOND PARISH COURT, JEFFERSON PARISH

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 1, 2005.

JUVENILE COURT, JEFFERSON PARISH

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 1, 2005.

SLIDELL CITY COURT

- Closed from August 29, 2005 until Monday, September 12, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. [Note that this is a modification of the initial announced closure, which was until October 1, 2005.]

BOGALUSA CITY COURT

- Closed from August 29, 2005 through October 1, 2005.

MISSISSIPPI COURTS

MISSISSIPPI STATE COURTS

- On September 6, the Supreme Court of Mississippi issued an Emergency Administrative Order as follows:
 - For all cases on appeal to the Supreme Court or the court of Appeals from trial courts located in the Second (Southern) Supreme Court District, all deadlines falling on or after August 29, 2005 through October 31, 2005, are extended for 90 days from the due date, and all oral arguments set are cancelled and will be rescheduled.
 - Regarding trial court proceedings in Second (Southern) Supreme Court District, trial courts are authorized to exercise their discretion in extended deadlines, etc.; the provisions of MRCP 2(c) are suspended until December 1, 2005; the provisions in MRCP 6(b) are suspended until December 1, 2005.
 - The court expressly stated that it lacks authority to extend statutes of limitation and that “no extension granted or authorized herein shall extend beyond the limitations of action set by statute.”
- More detailed information about specific state courts in Mississippi is available on the Mississippi Supreme Court’s website, <http://www.mssc.state.ms.us/news/default.asp>

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI AND U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

The court issued a Public Notice and an Order regarding extensions of time dated September 2, 2005 as follows:

- Operations of the district court and bankruptcy court are suspended in the Gulfport and Hattiesburg courthouses. This suspension will last thirty days [presumably from September 2, 2005, the date of the Public Notice].
- The suspension applies to all trials, hearings and conferences scheduled in those two courthouses unless otherwise directed by a judicial officer.

- The Gulfport courthouse has sustained water damage and the Hattiesburg courthouse is without electricity and water. Those facilities are expected to be operational soon.
- Meanwhile, persons with business in the Gulfport and Hattiesburg courthouses are directed to contact the district court clerk and the bankruptcy court clerk in their Jackson offices for specific directions:

Clerk, U.S. District Court
P.O. Box 23552
Jackson, MS 39225-3552
601/965-4439

Clerk, U.S. Bankruptcy Court
P.O. Box 2448
Jackson, MS 39225
601/965-5301

- The suspension does not apply to activity planned for the courthouses in Jackson, Meridian, Vicksburg and Natchez. Inquiries relative to those courthouses should be directed to the appropriate district court judge.
- This suspension also does not apply to any matters before the Fifth Circuit.
- Regarding extensions of time for filing notices of appeal and other documents, the court ordered that the clerk's office was "inaccessible" for purposes of FRCP 6(a) beginning on August 29, 2005 and the days thereafter until October 17, 2005. Accordingly, any deadlines for filing a notice of appeal or other pleading or document in a case pending in the Southern District of Mississippi on or after August 29, 2005 and before October 17, 2005 is extended to October 17, 2005. Any such notice of appeal or pleading or document received by the court on or after August 29, 2005 and prior to October 17, 2005 is deemed to be "filed" October 17, 2005. The clerk of court is instructed to deny as moot any motion for extension of time that is obviated by this order. Any motion for extension of time beyond the times provided by this order should be filed promptly. Parties are encouraged to confer to avoid motions for such further extensions.