



Supreme Court of New Mexico

CHIEF JUSTICE
JUDITH K. NAKAMURA
JUSTICES
BARBARA J. VIGIL
MICHAEL E. VIGIL
C. SHANNON BACON
DAVID K. THOMSON

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CHIEF CLERK
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March 13, 2020

Dear Members of the New Mexico State Bar,

The Governor's declaration of a public health emergency to address the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has affected all New Mexicans, including our courts. As the third branch of government, we are obligated to keep our courts open so that we may fulfill our constitutional and statutory duties while, at the same time, minimizing the public health risks for those who visit or work in our courthouses.

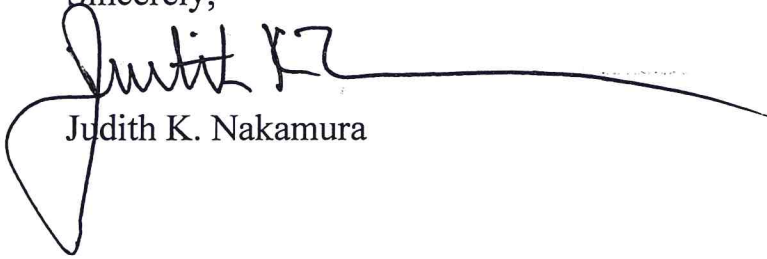
To meet these responsibilities the Supreme Court has implemented a number of public health measures designed to ensure that our courthouses are safe for jurors, litigants, lawyers, judicial employees, judges and all members of the public. These measures *include*, but are not limited to, the following:

- Contacting landlords and county officials to ensure that enhanced cleaning procedures will be implemented in buildings that house courthouses that are not owned by the New Mexico Judiciary.
- Restricting the number of people, including potential jurors, in our courtrooms to no more than twenty-five people to maintain appropriate social-distancing as recommended by public health authorities.
- Suspending civil jury trials, which have not yet commenced, subject to the individual discretion of the presiding judge. And,
- Alerting the public that they should not come to court if they have traveled to a high-risk area or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

While we understand that some of these measures may be inconvenient or even burdensome for you and your clients, we hope that you will work with us to keep our courthouses open and as safe as possible.

This is a developing situation and we will continue to work closely with the State Bar to keep you informed. You may be assured however, that we will do what is necessary to ensure the continued operation of our courts in a manner that protects public health and upholds the rule of law in New Mexico. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith K.", followed by a long horizontal line that curves downwards at the end. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

Judith K. Nakamura