

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN RE:

ORDER EXTENDING LEGAL TIME
LIMITS AFTER HURRICANE IRMA.

ADMIN. No. 2017-0001

2017 SEP 11 PM 3:34
SUPREME COURT

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT/ORDER

TO: Justices of the Supreme Court
Judges & Magistrate Judges of the Superior Court
Judges & Magistrate Judges of the District Court
Trudy Fenster, Esq., President, V.I. Bar Association, *for distribution to V.I. Bar members*
Regina D. Petersen, Administrator of Courts
Veronica J. Handy, Esq., Clerk of the Supreme Court
Estrella H. George, Clerk of the Superior Court
Glenda L. Lake, Esq., Clerk of the District Court
Supreme Court Law Clerks
Supreme Court Secretaries
Order Book

Please take notice that on September 11, 2017, a(n) **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER** dated September 11, 2017, was entered by the Clerk in the above-entitled matter.

Dated: September 11, 2017

VERONICA J. HANDY, ESQ.
Clerk of the Court

By: 
Cheryl A. Parris
Deputy Clerk II

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

SUPREME COURT
2017 SEP 11 PM 3:10

IN RE:) ADMIN. No. 2017-0001
ORDER EXTENDING LEGAL TIME)
LIMITS AFTER HURRICANE IRMA.)
_____)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, effective at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday September 5, 2017, Governor Kenneth E. Mapp declared a state of emergency due to Hurricane Irma, including imposition of a territory-wide curfew;

WHEREAS, on Tuesday September 5, 2017, all courts of the Virgin Islands were ordered closed in preparation for Hurricane Irma, and all Judicial Branch electronic platforms, including the Supreme Court’s electronic filing system, were taken offline;

WHEREAS, Hurricane Irma made landfall in the United States Virgin Islands as a Category-5 hurricane on Wednesday September 6, 2017, and resulted in devastating damage throughout the Territory, and in particular the District of St. Thomas and St. John, including the loss of power and telephone service;

WHEREAS, the courts of the Virgin Islands in the District of St. Thomas and St. John remain closed because the hazards caused by Hurricane Irma continue to impede the ability of attorneys, litigants, witnesses, jurors, judicial officers, court staff, and others to perform their duties and obligations;

WHEREAS, although the physical facilities of the courts of the Virgin Islands in the District of St. Croix have re-opened, Judicial Branch electronic platforms remain offline, and loss of power and other emergency conditions continue to persist that prevent the ordinary course of operations;

WHEREAS, the emergency conditions in the Virgin Islands, as well as the closure of the courts and the shut-down of Judicial Branch electronic platforms, have made it impossible for attorneys, litigants, and other stakeholders to comply with deadlines established by statute and court rule;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the administrative authority conferred by title 4, sections 4 and 31 of the Virgin Islands Code, it is hereby

ORDERED that all time limits prescribed or allowed by rule of procedure, court order, statutes applicable to court proceedings, or otherwise pertaining to court proceedings are **HEREBY TOLLED** from 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday September 5, 2017, through 11:59 p.m. on Thursday September 14, 2017, and that all such deadlines are therefore **EXTENDED** by ten (10) calendar days. It is further

ORDERED that all such time limits may be further extended by administrative order to the extent emergency conditions continue to persist in the Territory. It is further

ORDERED that, to the extent permitted by law, the Superior Court or the Supreme Court may extend such time limits beyond those set forth in this order on a case-by-case basis when a party demonstrates that the lack of compliance with a requisite time period was directly attributable to this emergency and that equitable remedy is required. It is further

ORDERED that copies of this order be directed to the appropriate parties.

SO ORDERED this 11th day of September, 2017.

/s/ Rhys S. Hodge
RHYS S. HODGE
Chief Justice

ATTEST:

VERONICA J. HANDY, ESQ.
Clerk of the Court

By: 

Deputy Clerk

Dated: 9/11/2017

Copies to:

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Judges & Magistrate Judges of the Superior Court

Judges & Magistrate Judges of the District Court

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