

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE  
FORTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA**

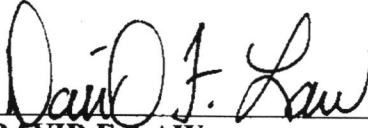
**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-03-15**

On March 13, 2020, the Supreme Court of Alabama entered an Order declaring a state of emergency for the entire Judicial Branch of the State of Alabama, and suspending all in-person proceedings in all state and local courts in Alabama including, but not limited to, proceedings in the circuit court, district court, juvenile court, municipal court, probate court, and appellate courts from March 16, 2020 through April 16, 2020 subject to certain exceptions. A copy of the Supreme Court's Order is attached hereto.

In order to avoid bringing large groups of people together including individuals at higher risk (e.g. those over sixty (60) years of age, those with underlying health conditions, those who are pregnant) and to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, **all in-person proceedings previously scheduled for the Fortieth Circuit from March 16, 2020 through April 16, 2020 are SUSPENDED** unless said hearing meets one of the exceptions identified by the Supreme Court's Order.

The circuit court criminal docket scheduled for Clay County on March 18, 2020 is hereby continued generally. However, any defendant that is set for said docket and currently incarcerated and desires to enter into a plea agreement with the State of Alabama, and said agreement will result in the defendant's release from custody, those cases will be heard upon the proper execution and electronic filing of a motion to allow plea of guilty, explanation of rights, and guidelines (if applicable) for each case. All other cases that meet the exceptions as identified by the Supreme Court's Order may be conducted, and to the extent possible, by telephone conference (or video conference, if available) pending further Order of this Court.

**DONE and ORDERED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

  
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**DAVID F. LAW**  
**PRESIDING JUDGE**

Via Email Distribution

James Malone, District Judge  
Carlton Teel, District Judge  
Richard Dean, Probate Judge  
Dianne Branch, Probate Judge  
Jeffrey Wood, Circuit Clerk  
Julie Poe, Circuit Clerk

