



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

October 8, 2026

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, under Article VI, § 149, Constitution of Alabama of 2022, the Chief Justice "shall be the administrative head of the judicial system"; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2026, Governor Kay Ivey issued a proclamation declaring a state of emergency in 40 Alabama counties, effective at 4:00 p.m. CDT, due to the threat of severe weather associated with Hurricane Isaias; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has forecast the potential for strong winds, flooding, and tornadoes affecting portions of Alabama beginning Friday, October 9, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proclamation authorizes state and local agency heads to make closure decisions based on local weather conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that presiding circuit judges statewide are authorized to close courts and judicial branch offices within their respective circuits at any time during the state of emergency when warranted by local weather conditions. Such closures shall remain in effect until the presiding circuit judge determines that conditions permit the safe reopening of courts and offices.

Done this 8th day of October, 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah H. Stewart", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sarah H. Stewart
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Alabama