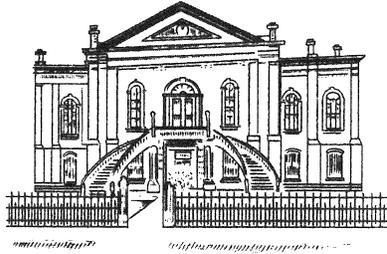


JOHN J. FLOOD
CLERK
(618) 242-3120



**STATE OF ILLINOIS
APPELLATE COURT
FIFTH DISTRICT
14TH & MAIN STREETS
P.O. BOX 867
MT. VERNON, IL 62864-0018**

For Immediate Release:
Date: March 17, 2020

**FIFTH DISTRICT APPELLATE COURT TO REMAIN OPEN
WITH PRECAUTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS**

The Honorable Thomas M. Welch, Presiding Justice of the Fifth District Appellate Court, announced that, until further notice, the court will remain open. In addition, all filing deadlines will remain in effect; as usual, no extension will be granted except on motion. Parties must continue to comply with all supreme court and local rules. The March oral argument setting has been revised and all cases previously scheduled for oral argument will now be taken under advisement by the court as nonoral cases.

The clerk's office will remain open for business during its regular business hours, but the building will be closed to the general public. Out of an abundance of caution, all courthouse tours are cancelled and entry to the courthouse will be restricted to employees, the cleaning staff and third-party commercial carrier services (UPS and FedEx). All deliveries by UPS and FedEx are to be dropped off with the security guard at the front door.

When oral arguments are scheduled by the court, entry to the building will be restricted and attorneys and members of the public should not enter the building if they:

- Have been in any of the following countries within the last 21 days: China, South Korea, Italy, Japan, or Iran; or
- Reside or have close contact with anyone who has been in one of those countries listed above within the last 21 days; or
- Have been directed to quarantine, isolate, or self-monitor at home for the coronavirus by any medical provider; or
- Have been diagnosed with, or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with, COVID-19; or
- Have flu-like symptoms including fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

These procedures are effective immediately. Modifications to the above procedures may become necessary on short notice.

Anyone seeking further information may contact the clerk's office at (618) 242-3120.