



## **District Court – 50<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Honorable Cynthia Thomas Walker**

The 50th District Court remains closed to the general public except for essential functions relating to health and safety, while safeguarding rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

On Friday, March 27, 2020 the Michigan Supreme Court issued Administrative Order 2020-5, extending the temporary suspension of non-essential court activity until at least April 13, 2020 at 11:59 pm. Attached is the updated Public Notice providing detail of the changes to court services as well as contact information for all of our divisions.

Consistent with AO 2020-2 and now 2020-5, court operations have been retooled to fulfill essential services while complying with orders to practice social distancing and limit occupants to no more than 10 in any courtroom space. The Court is operating with limited staff at this time. When possible, virtual processes have been implemented to continue serving the public for essential services, primarily involving in-custody defendants. Preliminary exams and probable cause hearings are being handled from the courtroom with attorneys who are either off-site or on the first floor of the courthouse with their in-custody clients. For the past few years, the court has conducted video arraignments from the jail, and now we are using our existing Polycom system and/or Zoom to connect 3 or more parties from remote locations.

This process is full of challenges, but we are dedicated to reducing the risk of COVID-19 exposure in the courthouse.

To view the entire **Public Notice of 50<sup>th</sup> District Court Updated Emergency Measures To Reduce COVID-19 Risk March 27, 2020 Update**, see below.