

**FILED**

**MAR 13 2020**

**Clerk, U.S. District & Bankruptcy  
Courts for the District of Columbia**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

IN RE: RESTRICTIONS ON  
COURTHOUSE VISITORS

Standing Order No. 20-8 (BAH)  
Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell

**ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the Mayor of the District of Columbia declared a state of emergency in response to the spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus in order to slow the spread of the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, to protect public health and safety and the well-being of courthouse staff, parties and counsel with official business in the court, notwithstanding the general rule that “all criminal proceedings, including preliminary examinations and hearings on pretrial motions, shall be held in open court and shall be available for attendance and observation by the public,”

D.D.C. LOCAL CRIMINAL RULE 17.2(a), it is hereby

**ORDERED** that, effective immediately, access to the E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse and the William B. Bryant Annex (the “Courthouse”) is hereby restricted to judges, court staff, members of the media and persons with official business with the United States District and Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Columbia and the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit (collectively “the Courts”); and it is further

**ORDERED** that individuals who have been diagnosed with or who have had known contact with a person with the COVID-19 virus or who have been asked to self-quarantine or

who are experiencing flu-like symptoms shall not enter the Courthouse without prior permission from a Chief Judge of one of the Courts; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the United States Marshal, his deputies and Court Security Officers shall deny entry to anyone attempting to enter in violation of this Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that any individual scheduled or required to appear at the Courthouse who is unable to appear because of restrictions in this Order shall contact the appropriate office listed below for further instructions:

Court of Appeals Clerk's Office: 202-216-7300  
District Courts Clerk's Office: 202-354-3120  
Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office: 202-354-3150  
U.S. Probation Office: 202-565-1300  
Pretrial Services Office: 202-442-1000  
Circuit Executive's Office: 202-216-7340

and it is further

**ORDERED** that these restrictions will remain in place temporarily until it is determined safe to remove them and further order of the Court.

**SO ORDERED.**

Date: March 13, 2020

  
BERYL A. HOWELL  
Chief Judge