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CLERK SUPREME COURT

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA**

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| **IN THE MATTER OF COURT CLOSURE AND UNPAID LEAVE DAYS: MAY 8** | ) ) ) ) | **SUPERVISORY ORDER** |

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Earlier this year, the General Assembly and the governor cut the judicial branch's operating funds for the current fiscal year by $3.8 million. To manage this severe, late-year cut, this court ordered a series of cost-cutting measures, including a total of 8 days when all court offices would be closed and all court staff would take unpaid leave.

Prior to the end of the legislative session the General Assembly approved Senate File 472 that, among other things, authorizes the supreme court to order unpaid leave for judicial officers. Yesterday this bill was signed by the governor. The General Assembly has also passed Senate File 478 that includes a $760,000 supplemental appropriation to the judicial branch for FY 09. Approval of Senate File 472 and Senate File 478 will enable the court to adjust the judicial branch operating budget for the remainder of FY 09. Including judges and magistrates in court closure days will allow the court to eliminate one of the four remaining closure days. If the governor approves the supplemental appropriation in Senate File 478, the court will be able to cancel two more court closure days, making it necessary to have only one court closure and unpaid leave day from now through June 30, 2009. The court, after consultation with the chief judges, tentatively plans to retain May 22 as the remaining closure and unpaid leave day this fiscal year. Therefore, the court:

- Modifies its previous order by canceling the court closure and unpaid leave scheduled for May 8, 2009 and directs that all court offices be open

for business that day from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Directs all judges and magistrates to take unpaid leave on May 22, 2009. Notwithstanding this order, a chief judge of the judicial district may require certain judges and magistrates to be on call or available to cover emergency matters and authorize such judges and magistrates to take unpaid leave at another time during the same period as the court closure day.

If and when the governor approves the supplemental appropriation to the judicial branch in Senate File 478, the court will issue a subsequent order concerning court closures and unpaid leave scheduled for June 5 and 19, 2009.

Dated this 5th day of May, 2009.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By Marsha K. Ternus
Marsha K. Ternus, Chief Justice