

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**IN THE  
HO-CHUNK NATION JUDICIARY**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

**In re: Suspending Traditional Court  
During COVID-19 Pandemic**

Order No.: **Admin. 20-10**

**WHEREAS**, the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council delegated judicial authority to the Ho-Chunk Nation Judiciary pursuant to the CONSTITUTION OF THE HO-CHUNK NATION, ART. VII, § 4; and,

**WHEREAS**, the General Council delegated legislative authority to the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature pursuant to CONST., ART. V, § 1(a); and,

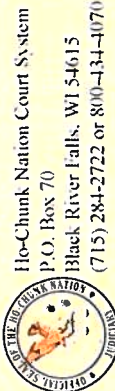
**WHEREAS**, the Legislature adopted the HO-CHUNK NATION JUDICIARY ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION ACT, pursuant to its constitutional authority as articulated in CONST., ART. V, § 2(a); and,

**WHEREAS**, “[t]he Judiciary shall have exclusive authority and responsibility to employ personnel and to establish written rules and procedures governing the . . . operation of the courts” pursuant to JUDICIARY ACT, para. 1.5c; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature approved the job description of the Chief Judge pursuant to its constitutional authority as articulated in CONST., ART. V, § 2(f); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature confirmed that “[t]he Chief Judge is responsible for the overall Tribal Court System . . .” in the job description; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Judge has routinely entered administrative orders pertaining to the administration of the courts since the foundation of the Judiciary; and,



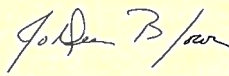
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature declared a state of emergency, imposing stringent restrictions on employment-related travel. HCN Leg. Res. 03-12-20A at 3-4. Additionally, the Ho-Chunk Nation President declared a state of emergency, also suspending employment-related travel. HCN Admin. Order. Mar. 13,2020-1; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020, the Ho-Chunk Nation Judiciary temporarily closed its offices at Wa Ehi Hocira to ensure the safety of litigants, the public and its staff. *In re: Building Closure – Continued Operations of the Judiciary*, Admin. Order 20-09 (HCN Tr. Ct., Mar. 20, 2020).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CHIEF JUDGE ENTERS THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER EFFECTIVE UPON THE DATE OF SIGNATURE:**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Judge has determined to temporarily suspend all Traditional Court meetings physically held on Mondays at Wa Ehi Hocira. This decision is made to ensure the safety of the Judiciary’s honorable elders, who are a vital resource to the Nation. The Judiciary is closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic with both the Legislative and Executive Branches and will provide notice when it is safe and possible for the Traditional Court to reconvene.

 Digitally signed by Jo Deen B. Lowe  
Date: 2020.04.08 18:09:12 -05'00'

\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable Jo Deen B. Lowe  
Chief Trial Court Judge

April 8, 2020  
Date