

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 17-9110

IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 17-012

EMERGENCY ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTY COURT AND JUSTICE COURTS OF REFUGIO COUNTY TO CONDUCT PROCEEDINGS TEMPORARILY IN GOLIAD AND VICTORIA COUNTIES

ORDERED that:

1. Hurricane Harvey struck the Texas coast on August 25, 2017. To date, Governor Abbott has declared a state of disaster in 58 counties, including Refugio County.
2. The Courts have received information that the Constitutional County Court and Justice Courts of Refugio County are hindered in conducting proceedings within that county because of disaster conditions that may persist for an extended period of time, including the lack of electricity and Internet access. At the request of the Honorable Robert Blaschke, County Judge of Refugio County, the Constitutional County Court and Justice Courts of Refugio County are authorized to conduct proceedings in cases filed in the courts in Goliad and/or Victoria Counties as if sitting in Refugio County, effective this date and pending further Order of the Courts. The courts can conduct jury trials outside Refugio County only if the right to trial in that county is waived by the parties.
3. This Order does not preclude the courts from also conducting proceedings in Refugio County as conditions permit.

4. This Order is issued pursuant to Section 22.0035(b)¹ of the Texas Government Code, and expires September 30, 2017, unless extended by the Courts.

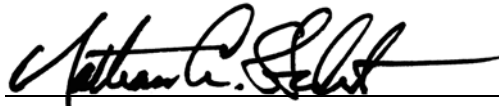
5. The Clerks of the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals are directed to:

- a. post a copy of this Order on www.txcourts.gov;
- b. file a copy of this Order with the Secretary of State; and
- c. send a copy of this Order to the Governor, the Attorney General, and each member of the Legislature.

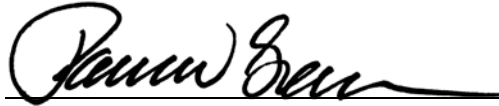
6. The State Bar of Texas is directed to take all reasonable steps to notify members of the Texas bar of this Order.

Dated: September 1, 2017

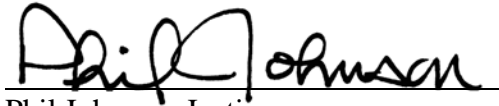
¹ “Notwithstanding any other statute, the supreme court may modify or suspend procedures for the conduct of any court proceeding affected by a disaster during the pendency of a disaster declared by the governor. An order under this section may not extend for more than 30 days from the date the order was signed unless renewed by the supreme court.”



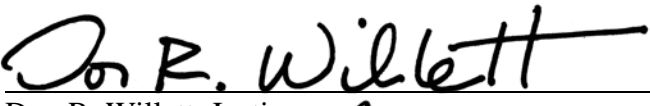
Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



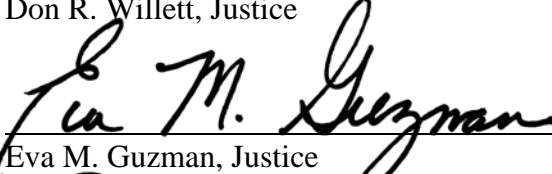
Paul W. Green, Justice



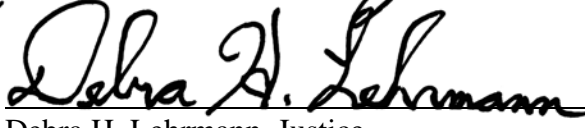
Phil Johnson, Justice



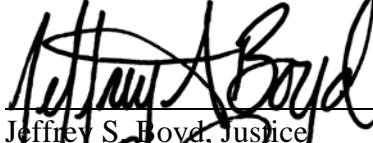
Don R. Willett, Justice



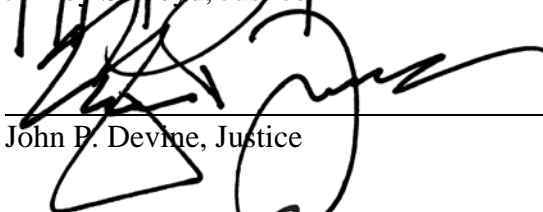
Eva M. Guzman, Justice



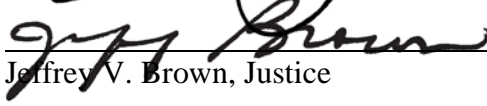
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



John P. Devine, Justice



Jeffrey V. Brown, Justice

Sharon Keller
Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge

Kevin Patrick Yeary
Kevin P. Yeary, Judge

Michael Keasler
Michael Keasler, Judge

David Newell
David Newell, Judge

Barbara Hervey
Barbara Hervey, Judge

Mary Lou Keel, Judge

Elsa Alcala
Elsa Alcala, Judge

Scott Walker, Judge

Bert Richardson
Bert Richardson, Judge