

February 05, 2010

TO: JUDGES, MARITAL MASTERS AND NON-JUDICIAL
EMPLOYEES

FROM: Chief Justice John T. Broderick, Jr.
Chief Justice Robert J. Lynn
Justice Edwin W. Kelly
Justice David D. King
Donald D. Goodnow

The Supreme Court will soon issue an order concerning furloughs in the judicial branch. In the meantime, we want to make sure all judges, masters, and non-judicial employees know that all courts and judicial branch administrative offices will be closed and employees will be furloughed on the following days which were agreed upon during recently completed collective bargaining negotiations:

Friday April 2, 2010;

Friday April 30, 2010; and

Friday May 28, 2010.

We recognize that many court proceedings will have to be rescheduled from these furlough days to other days, and we appreciate the effort being expended by many people to clear court calendars on furlough days.

As the legislative session and our budget process unfold, we will learn more about how many furlough days the courts must take in order to reduce judicial branch expenditures by \$3.1 million. As we must, we will plan for the worst case scenario and then cancel furlough days if legislative action or budget circumstances permit us to do so.

Many of you have expressed your concern about the possible impact of furlough days on retirement benefit calculations. Our goal remains to ensure that no judge, master, or employee suffers a pension reduction on account of the judicial branch furlough plan.

It saddens us all to be planning furloughs that will close courts, diminish access to justice, and reduce compensation to those who work in the courts. At the same time, we continue to be very appreciative of the good work done by the collective bargaining teams. Their tentative agreement allows us to plan for furloughs instead of layoffs. Unfortunately, if the tentative agreement is not ratified, the courts will

still be closed on furlough days but the collective bargaining unit employees represented by the SEA will work those days and lay offs will occur within the SEA bargaining units to make up their share of the budget reduction.