

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. A-2024-48-B

**SECOND AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CLOSING COURTS
IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE MILTON
(*amended to extend closure of ALL COURTS in the Circuit*)**

WHEREAS, Hurricane Milton has caused widespread, significant damage, power outages, and flooding throughout the entirety of the Fifth Judicial Circuit when it made landfall on the west coast of Florida as a powerful and dangerous hurricane and moved across the Florida peninsula; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Florida has declared a state of emergency to include every county within the Fifth Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, public schools, county governments, and other public and private services are closed throughout the Fifth Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, mandatory evacuations in Hernando and Citrus Counties, the resulting strain on infrastructure and supplies, power outages throughout the Circuit, and in the interest of the health and safety of Circuit employees and litigants, extending the closure of all

courts in the Fifth Judicial Circuit is necessary; and

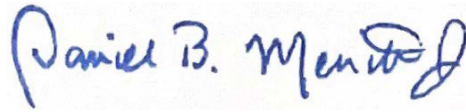
BASED UPON, the recommendation after consultation and concurrence with the Administrative Judges of Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties, and the Fifth Judicial Circuit Emergency Response Team that all of the courts of the Fifth Judicial Circuit should remain closed until 8:00 a.m. Monday, October 14, 2024;

It is therefore,

ORDERED and ADJUDGED as follows:

- 1. ALL COURTS** of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, including the County Courts in Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties are closed and will remain closed until 8:00 a.m. Monday, October 14, 2024.
- 2.** The intent of this Order is to have the courts of the Fifth Judicial Circuit to be operating normally at 8:00 a.m. Monday, October 14, 2024, however further developments regarding the effects of the aftermath of Hurricane Milton, may demand amendment.

DONE AND ORDERED in Brooksville, Hernando County,
Florida, this 10th day of October 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel B. Merritt, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel B. Merritt, Jr.
Chief Judge
Fifth Judicial Circuit