



JOHN A. HATCHER

CHANCERY JUDGE, PLACE ONE
FIRST CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
SECOND FLOOR, PRENTISS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

SERVING THE COUNTIES OF
ALCORN PRENTISS
ITAWAMBA PONTOTOC
LEE TISHOMINGO
MONROE UNION

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June 6, 2018

RE: *Order* executed May 21, 2018 by Chancellor John A. Hatcher

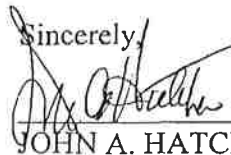
All:

Please find attached an Order executed on May 21, 2018, to address scheduling of pending and new matters assigned to my Court, given my upcoming retirement in December. It is intended to ease the transition between my retirement and the incoming Chancellor taking the bench at the end of this year, and to provide clarity for the process I intend to follow in completing my tenure here on the bench. It is my goal to complete hearings in all contested matters in which a trial has begun before me, along with the hearing of all post-trial motions, by the last scheduled Court date this year, being December 18, 2018.

The entry of this Order should not be viewed as the Court closing the doors to any of you or the litigants in the First Chancery District in the upcoming months. This District remains an open-door district to all legal litigants, as has long been our position, and we will work diligently to ensure that every party has an opportunity to be heard, whether trial has begun or not, and whether or not their hearing occurs before me, or before another Chancellor through reassignment.

Please read the attached Order carefully, and if questions arise regarding its provisions, please contact our Law Clerk, Cassi Hill, at (662) 432-2133 or chill@co.lee.ms.us, or me.

I look forward to continuing to serve each of you as Chancellor for the First Chancery Court District of Mississippi.

Sincerely,


JOHN A. HATCHER, Chancellor

IN THE CHANCERY COURTS OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

ORDER

THE COURT, on its own motion, finding it necessary to set forth procedures for the efficient and economic conclusion of all matters pending before the Court prior to retirement on December 31, 2018, does hereby **FIND, ORDER, ADJUDGE, AND DECREE** as follows:


1. Effective immediately, for the dates of October 24, 2018 through December 18, 2018, no hearing may be set upon the docket for Chancellor Hatcher on any contested matter that would require more than four (4) consecutive hours of trial in one (1) day in order to complete the matter.
2. Effective as of the date of entry of this Order, if a matter is filed which is reasonably anticipated to require multiple days of trial, the matter shall be set for trial at the earliest dates possible, given the notice requirements of the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure, and where possible, all hearing dates shall be prior to October 24, 2018.
3. If the trial on the merits of any matter assigned to Chancellor Hatcher has commenced prior to October 24, 2018 but has not been completed prior to said date, the matter may be set upon Chancellor Hatcher's docket such that it shall be tried and completed by December 18, 2018, regardless of whether such a trial would require more than four (4) additional hours of hearing.
4. If a contested matter is filed subsequent to entry of this Order and the parties require relief during the dates of court scheduled to be held between October 24, 2018 and

December 18, 2018 but it is reasonably anticipated that a hearing on such matter would require more than four hours of trial to complete, the attorneys for the parties shall notify the Court Administrator upon the need for hearing arising and a conference shall be scheduled with the Court, upon which the Court may consider transferring the cause to another Chancellor in accordance with the provisions of Rule 1 of the Local Rules of the First Chancery Court District.

5. The purpose of entry of this Order is to effectuate economy and efficiency in the transition process occurring between Judge Hatcher's upcoming retirement and the incoming Chancellor to be elected in November 2018, with the goal of affording parties and counsel the opportunity to obtain a final disposition of all matters pending before Chancellor Hatcher, including rulings on Post-Trial Motions, prior to his retirement.
6. Within ten (10) days of its entry, a copy of the instant Order shall be filed of record on the minutes of each of the eight (8) counties in the First Chancery District, posted at each Chancery Court building within the First Chancery District, and circulated to each practicing attorney having an office located within the District.

ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED, this the 21st day of

May, 2018.



HONORABLE JOHN A. HATCHER
CHANCELLOR