

Illinois State Bar Association

Indiana:

ISBA Members:

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, [the Supreme Court has ordered trial courts](#) to implement relevant portions of Continuity of Operations Planning (such as postponing jury trials, allowing for remote hearings, and keeping only essential staff in courthouses).

Trial courts are being directed to petition the Supreme Court through Administrative Rule 17 to carry out operational changes. AR 17 provides the framework for trial courts to put operational changes in place in the face of an emergency. Indiana Chief Justice Loretta Rush has already signed orders allowing for adjustments to jury trials, hearings, and other business practices as requested by counties. The Supreme Court is prioritizing review of any AR 17 petitions filed.

At the Supreme Court, attendance at oral arguments will be limited to the attorneys and parties in the case; [the public is encouraged to watch the live webcasts](#).

The Office of Judicial Administration has already put in place social distancing and telework options for its employees.

In a [press release](#) just issued, Chief Justice Rush reported that she is monitoring the situation with guidance from the Indiana State Department of Health. She explained, “The Indiana Supreme Court will continue to hold oral arguments (subject to change), review cases, and accept filings—while taking proper measures to reduce exposure of COVID-19. We also know our trial court judges across the state are focused on ensuring essential court functions continue while being mindful of the safety of their communities. The Judicial Branch has avenues in place to ensure court operations at all levels continue.”