DISTRICT COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVISIONS OF ST. CROIX and ST. THOMAS/ST. JOHN

IN RE:)	General Order
)	
DISTRICT COURT OPERATIONS)	
DURING THE COVID-19)	Miscellaneous No. 2020-0001
OUTBREAK)	
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FIFTH ORDER CONCERNING OPERATIONS OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS

WHEREAS, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic ("COVID-19"), the District Court of the Virgin Islands has issued General Orders concerning District Court operations during the course of this public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the General Orders authorize and support the use of teleconferencing and videoconferencing for civil and criminal proceedings, in accordance with the applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the District Court continues to support public access to proceedings before the Court, notwithstanding that those proceedings may be conducted outside of the physical confines of the courtroom; and

NOW THEREFORE, in order to facilitate public access to proceedings conducted by teleconference or videoconference that ordinarily would have been conducted in open court, it is hereby **ORDERED** as follows:

1. Access to teleconference and videoconference proceedings will be made available to the public, including the media, via teleconference.

2. Public access to teleconference and videoconference proceedings can be achieved by calling the following numbers for proceedings scheduled before the respective presiding judges:

Chief Judge Wilma A. Lewis

1-866-390-1828 Access code: 5987498#

District Judge Robert A. Molloy

1-888-251-2909 Access code: 5157509#

Magistrate Judge George W. Cannon, Jr.

1-888-808-6929 Access code: 8987369#

Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller

1-866-434-5269 Access code: 5696101#

If you have difficulty achieving access, please contact 340-712-7105 for assistance on St. Croix, or 340-775-8005 for assistance on St. Thomas.

3. Persons granted remote access to teleconference and videoconference proceedings as provided herein are advised that recording, broadcasting or otherwise electronically or digitally capturing the content of any civil or criminal proceeding is strictly prohibited. Violations of these prohibitions may result in the imposition of sanctions by the Court.

4. This Order is effective immediately, and shall remain in effect as long as teleconference and videoconference proceedings are being conducted pursuant to the General Orders entered by the Court in response to COVID-19.

SO ORDERED.

Date: April 30, 2020

WILMA A. LEWIS

Chief Judge

2