As we together confront the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, I want to express my gratitude to all who serve the Florida state courts, our partners in the system of justice, the members of the legal profession, and the people we all serve. Thank you for your hard work, your cooperation, and your patience.

We are facing an unprecedented challenge. The pandemic is now affecting everyone. We are now living our lives in a way that none of us would have contemplated a few weeks ago. And none of us can count on things soon getting easier. We face many tough choices on the path ahead of us.

The pandemic presents an extraordinary challenge for the legal system. We depend on human interaction to achieve justice under the law. We are working to maintain that interaction while also minimizing the spread of the virus. I am confident that the courts, the legal profession, and all of our partners are up to the task. All of us working in the system of justice have the great privilege of the weighty responsibility of helping to maintain the rule of law and to protect the rights and liberties of the people. This work cannot grind to a halt. But it is essential that our work be done in a way that it protects the public health. So, a great deal of our work will necessarily be delayed.
I am deeply encouraged by the strong spirit I see as I talk with judges, clerks, court staff, and lawyers. And I am deeply grateful for the tireless leadership of our chief judges all over the state.

By continuing to work together, we will get through this crisis. We all are in this together. Hard work, cooperation, and patience remain essential to our effort. We are a team with a common goal. We will continue the work of justice, we will protect against the contagion, and will put the crisis behind us as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your dedication to the work of justice.

Stay safe and keep your family safe.