



## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

### NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2021

#### **Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Announces State Court Closure in Honor of Juneteenth**

**HARRISBURG** – Focused on promoting the advancement of unity, equality and justice for all Pennsylvanians, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has issued an Order closing all non-essential court functions and proceedings on June 18<sup>th</sup>, in recognition of Juneteenth National Freedom Day.

Established by Act 9 of 2019, which passed unanimously in the General Assembly, Juneteenth National Freedom Day marks the date in 1865 when news of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation two years earlier by President Abraham Lincoln reached Galveston, Texas. The annual observance of this historic date provides the opportunity to recognize the historical and cultural significance of news of the signing and dissemination of the Emancipation Proclamation finally arriving in the furthest point in the South.

The Court's Order designates June 18, 2021 "as a state-level special holiday for employees of the Unified Judicial System" and closes all courts, other than for essential functions or other proceedings as may be deemed necessary by county President Judges.

More information about the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania is available on its [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

###

**Media contact:** [Stacey Witalec](#), 717-877-2997

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: : NO. 551  
: :  
ORDER DESIGNATING SPECIAL 2021 : JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION DOCKET  
COURT HOLIDAY COMMEMORATING :  
JUNETEENTH :  
: :  
:

ORDER

PER CURIAM

**AND NOW**, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021,

**WHEREAS** Juneteenth is a date of great historical and cultural significance, marking the date in 1865 when news of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation two years earlier by President Abraham Lincoln reached Galveston, Texas, the furthest point in the South, with the arrival of Union soldiers; and

**WHEREAS** commemoration of Juneteenth celebrates that event, and further serves as an occasion to promote the advancement of unity, equality and justice for all Pennsylvanians; and

**WHEREAS** on June 19, 2019, the Governor of Pennsylvania signed legislation designating June 19 as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day," and recognizing it as an annual observance in Pennsylvania; and


**WHEREAS** the Governor has designated June 18, 2021 as a special holiday for employees in agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction;

**IT IS ORDERED** pursuant to Article V, Section 10 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania that June 18, 2021 is hereby designated as a special holiday for state-level employees of the Unified Judicial System; and

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that all courts of the Unified Judicial System shall be closed other than for essential functions or other proceedings as may be deemed necessary in the discretion of President Judges.

This **ORDER** shall be effective immediately.

A True Copy Patricia Nicola  
As Of 05/20/2021

Attest:   
Chief Clerk  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania