

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**



NOTICE FROM THE CLERK

NO. 17-12

**TRANSFER OF FEDERAL DETAINEES OUTSIDE OF DISTRICT OF
PUERTO RICO AND SUSPENSION OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL TRIALS
UNTIL NOVEMBER 6, 2017.**

The passage of Hurricane Maria has created a state of emergency, which encompasses the unavailability of power, destruction of communication towers, the limited access to food, fuel, and water. All of these, along with mechanical problems with generators at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Guaynabo ("MDC") and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico's Bayamon Detention Center ("Bayamon DC") has compelled the Bureau of Prisons' Warden of the MDC, for security and health reasons, to relocate pre-trial detainees at the MDC Guaynabo and Bayamon DC outside the District of Puerto Rico.

Female detainees have been transferred to Tallahassee, Florida, while male detainees were transferred to Yazoo Detention Center in Mississippi. At present, the District Court and the Executives from the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit are working to secure the inter-circuit assignment of District and Magistrate Judges to preside in pleadings/cases pertaining to these pretrial detainees. These actions are set in place pursuant to the Federal Judiciary Emergency Special Sessions Act of 2005 (Special Sessions Act), Pub. L. No. 109-63, 119 Stat. 1993 (2005) (codified in scattered sections of Title 28 of the U.S. Code).

To ensure continued legal representation, coordination is being done with the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Puerto Rico and the Federal Public Defenders Offices in Tallahassee and Mississippi. The MDC Warden and the United States Marshals Service in Puerto Rico are also working to secure telephone and videoconferencing services to facilitate communications between detainees and their respective counsel. The District Court, the FPD and the USMS will arrange, once the Court resumes operations, to have available videoconferencing services onsite. Each agency is in the process of identifying a contact person for this endeavor. **Accordingly, you should expect further communication and guidance from the Court on this matter.**

The Court has also determined that no civil or criminal jury trials will be held before the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico **prior to November 6, 2017.** This determination will be revisited depending on the progress achieved in regaining power and connectivity in Puerto Rico.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this Friday, September 29, 2017.



**FRANCES RIOS DE MORAN, ESQ.
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT**