

[IP Law Daily, INDUSTRY NEWS: Federal Circuit, Court of Federal Claims extend access restrictions to court building, \(Sept. 14, 2020\)](#)

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Ongoing COVID-19 emergency shuts National Courts Building complex until October 19 to all but court staff, with limited exceptions on special request.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims are extending the time period during which access to National Courts Building complex in Washington, D.C., will be limited due to the COVID-19 emergency, according to a recent [announcement](#). Pursuant to a new joint [order](#), affecting prior administrative orders of June 26, 2020, the restrictions will remain in effect until October 19.

"Based on continuing declared public health emergencies impacting Washington, D.C. and the National Capital Region, as well as ongoing efforts to mitigate community transmission and the impact of COVID-19, there is an ongoing need ... to continue to restrict public access to the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building," the order states. Building access will continue to remain limited to court staff. However, requests for access will still be handled on a case-by-case basis when submitted in writing at least 24 hours ahead of time.

In May, the Federal Circuit issued an administrative [order](#) directing that in-person arguments in cases have been suspended until further notice. Since March 16—when building access restrictions were instituted—panels of judges have conducted court sessions telephonically and, in some cases, have dispensed with oral argument pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 34(a)(2)(C) after determining argument would be unnecessary.

Requests for access relating to Federal Circuit business or spaces within the National Courts Building may be submitted in writing to the Circuit Executive's Office at FSO_helpdesk@cafc.uscourts.gov. To review ongoing updates and information about the Federal Circuit's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, go to the court's [COVID-19 information page](#).

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