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3 April 2020

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Dear Presidents

**Federal Court of Australia – Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Update 15**

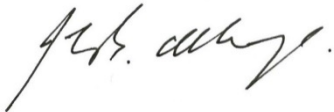
I apologize for not having communicated with you yesterday, Thursday 2 April.

There are three matters which I wish to raise with you. First, without going into unnecessary detail the Court is close to having a full or at least adequate number of courtrooms that will permit a Microsoft Teams hearing with the judge either in court or at his or her home together with a reliable transcript from Auscript. At present there are a limited number of courts with a particular type of cable in the Federal Court able to provide this. We anticipate that by next week there will be upwards of 34, with that number increasing with further technological developments.

Secondly, as to necessity to close down the General Federal Law Public Search Portal in the Commonwealth Courts Portal, the Court has placed on the website a contact number for parties or practitioners to ring should they need to undertake a search concerning Admiralty, Native Title or Bankruptcy. This will obviate any difficulty and inconvenience to practitioners and parties in these areas.

Thirdly, I have had published on the website the revised Special Measures Information and Practice Note and a further Special Measure Information and Practice Note in Admiralty and Maritime concerning arrests of ships.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Allsop', written in a cursive style.

**The Hon James Allsop**  
Chief Justice