

**Corey R. Steel**  
State Court Administrator



**Deborah A. Minardi**  
State Probation Administrator

TO: All Judicial Branch Employees  
FROM: Corey R. Steel, State Court Administrator *CRS*  
DATE: January 2, 2025  
RE: January 9, 2025 – Judicial Day

On December 30, 2024, President Biden signed an executive order making January 9, 2025, a National Day of Mourning due to the passing of President James Earl Carter, Jr., and excused federal employees from duty on January 9, 2025. The Governor has likewise recognized January 9, 2025, as a paid holiday due to the National Day of Mourning but left it to Executive Branch Agency Directors to determine appropriate staffing levels required to maintain agency operations that serve the best interests of the public.

The Nebraska Judicial Branch recognizes the significance of this day and likewise recognizes it as a paid holiday under statute. Under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 25-2221, courts and their offices may close on days designated in that statute or declared by law or proclamation to be a holiday. However, only the Chief Justice, as the administrative head of the Judicial Branch, may declare a nonjudicial day. Our courts and probation offices are faced with the dilemma of rescheduling important hearings, trials, and appointments. Therefore, the Chief Justice has made the decision to keep courts open on January 9, 2025, and provide an alternative day of paid leave for all Judicial Branch employees who work on January 9, 2025.

Under the Chief Justice's constitutional and statutory authority, Thursday, January 9, 2025, will remain a judicial day. Employees working on January 9, 2025, will be provided an alternate day of paid leave to be used by December 31, 2025. All district, county, and probation offices shall remain open and staffed at a minimum to provide filing and other essential court services. Local judges, clerks, and supervisors should work together to ensure minimal staffing occurs to maintain court and probation operations and provide an alternate day of paid leave for those employees working on January 9, 2025, in accordance with administrative policies.

CRS/ml