

PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

Southern District of Indiana to Observe Juneteenth on July 2

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (June 30, 2021): Chief Judge Tanya Walton Pratt announced that the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana will be closed on Friday, July 2, 2021, in delayed observation of the Juneteenth National Independence Day. Signed into law as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, the Court delayed its observance due to the short period of time between President Biden's signing of the bill and the actual holiday on June 19.

According to National Public Radio, "Juneteenth is celebrated annually on the 19th of June to mark the date some of the last enslaved people in the Confederacy became free. While the Emancipation Proclamation freed enslaved people in Confederate states in 1863, it was not until two and a half years later that many Black people still held in bondage in Texas were told that the order had freed them. Texas' isolation from the rest of the country and remote landscape kept Union soldiers from enforcing the message as quickly there as they had been able to elsewhere."

Chief Judge Pratt said, "The celebration of Juneteenth gives the Court a welcome opportunity to reflect on its continuing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. By honoring the emancipation of Black slaves, we are reminded of the progress made in the fight for equity, as well as the many steps left to be taken."

The Court will also be closed on Monday, July 5, in observation of Independence Day.