ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF THE COURTS

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and upon consultation with the Administrative Board of the Courts, I hereby amend, effective immediately, section 128.6-a of the Uniform Rules for the Jury System, relating to excusals from jury service, to read as follows:

(b) Excusal.

(1) A prospective juror who has received a jury summons may apply to be excused from jury service by submitting a written application for excusal to the commissioner, at such time as the commissioner shall require. Such application for excusal may be granted only if the prospective juror has demonstrated satisfactorily the (i) he or she has a mental or physical condition that renders him or her incapable of performing jury service, or that jury service would cause undue hardship or extreme inconvenience to the prospective juror, a person under his or her care or supervision, or the public, and (ii) he or she will be unable to serve as a juror on a date certain within the time restrictions applicable to postponements set forth in subdivision (a) of this section. The application shall contain documentation, satisfactory to the commissioner, supporting the ground for excusal. <u>The commissioner may, in his or her discretion, consider an application for excusal by a prospective juror before the juror has received a jury summons if the juror has returned the juror qualification questionnaire.</u>

(2) If the application for excusal is granted and the facts underlying the ground for the excusal are not of a permanent nature, the excusal shall be for a specific period of time not

to exceed [twenty-four] <u>24</u> months <u>or, in extraordinary cases, beyond 24 months,</u> after which the prospective juror shall become eligible for re-qualification as a juror. If the facts underlying the ground for excusal are of a permanent nature, the excusal shall be permanent.

Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts

Dated:

AO/ /08