

17<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF  
FLORIDA  
BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
201 S.E. 6TH STREET, SUITE 20170  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301



TRIAL COURT  
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**For Immediate Release**

December 17, 2024

**Evacuation Drill Planned for West Tower of Broward County Courthouse**

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – Attention media: Court staff who work in the West Tower of the Broward County Courthouse will be participating in a fire drill and mandatory evacuation at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.

At that time, thousands of state and county court employees who work in the West Tower will be descending via stairs from whatever floor they work on and exiting outside. Because this is a fire drill, elevators will not be used to evacuate the West Tower's 20 floors so many employees will be descending numerous flights of stairs.

Volunteer floor monitors will be on hand to assist employees as they evacuate.

**Of Note:** The North Wing will **not** be participating in this evacuation drill.

Once outside, court staff will gather at designated meeting locations. The Broward Sheriff's Office will assist with the evacuation of trial participants for judges who may be in trial with juries or otherwise. Security personnel will advise when employees may re-enter the building.

Participating agencies include the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, the Broward Sheriff's Office, and Broward County.

The drill is the first of a series of planned evacuation drills. Broward County will be organizing similar drills later for the North Wing and other downtown courthouse buildings as well as the North Regional Courthouse in Deerfield Beach, the West Regional Courthouse in Plantation and the South Regional Courthouse in Hollywood.

**ABOUT THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**

The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida is the court for Broward County, headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, FL. It is the second largest circuit court in the state. Broward County has 90 judges. Of those, 32 are county court judges and 58 are circuit judges. Four courthouses comprise the 17th circuit and include the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, and three satellite courthouses: the North Regional Courthouse in Deerfield Beach, the West Regional Courthouse in Plantation and the South Regional Courthouse in Hollywood.