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MARCH 20, 2020

CLERK US DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

BY s/M. Everett DEPUTY

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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**
8

9 In the matter of

10 CONTINUING COURT OPERATIONS
11 UNDER THE EXIGENT
12 CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY
13 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

13 **SUPERSEDES GENERAL ORDER 20-13**

GENERAL ORDER 20-15

14 This General Order is being issued in response to the rapid increase in the United
15 States and the state of Arizona of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). There are
16 currently court personnel in this District being tested for COVID-19 exposure, as well as
17 an excused juror. This General Order shall supersede General Order 20-13, issued on
18 March 18, 2020.

19 In response to the continued spread of COVID-19, President Trump has declared a
20 national emergency and issued guidelines directing at-risk individuals including those 60
21 and older, to stay away from other people, to work from home whenever possible, to avoid
22 discretionary travel, and to avoid gatherings of more than ten people. Governor Ducey
23 has also declared a state of emergency in the state of Arizona. The Centers for Disease
24 Control and Prevention (CDC) and other health authorities have advised people to take
25 precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the COVID-19 virus and to slow the
26 spread of disease. In particular, the CDC is recommending that people attempt to keep
27 physical distance between themselves and other people. This technique, known as social
28 distancing, is especially important for people who have a higher health risk should they

1 contract the disease. The CDC is recommending employers minimize exposure between
2 employees and the public.

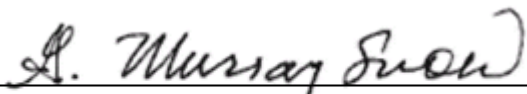
3 Given this guidance, and to protect the safety and health of all those entering and
4 working in the Courthouse, the Court ORDERS, effective immediately:

- 5 1. The Court continuances in the Tucson division under General Order 20-11 for the
6 week of March 16, 2020, shall remain in effect through March 29, 2020 subject to
7 a further continuance. Initial Appearances and preliminary and detention hearings
8 shall proceed as scheduled. Except as set forth in Paragraph 4, all other proceedings
9 are continued and shall be reset to a date on or after March 30, 2020. Court
10 proceedings in Yuma involving fewer than ten total participants including court staff
11 and deputy marshals may resume, if necessary.
- 12 2. All civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to commence on or before May 4, 2020,
13 are continued pending further order of the Court. The Court may issue other orders
14 concerning future continuances as necessary and appropriate.
- 15 3. All trial-specific deadlines in criminal cases scheduled to begin before May 4, 2020,
16 are continued pending further order of the Court. Individual judges may continue
17 trial-specific deadlines in civil cases at their discretion.
- 18 4. Individual judges presiding over criminal proceedings may take such actions
19 consistent with this order as may be lawful and appropriate to ensure the fairness of
20 the proceedings and preserve the rights of the parties.
- 21 5. Due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the
22 effect of the public health recommendations on the availability of counsel and Court
23 staff, the period of the continuances implemented by this General Order will be
24 excluded under the Speedy Trial Act. The Court specifically finds that the ends of
25 justice served by ordering the continuances outweigh the best interests of the public
26 and any defendant's right to a speedy trial, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A).
27 Any motion by a criminal defendant seeking an exception to this order in order to
28 exercise that right should be directed to the District Judge assigned to the matter.

1 Absent further order of the Court, the period of the exclusion shall be from March
2 16, 2020, through May 3, 2020.

- 3 6. Individual judges may continue to hold hearings, conferences, and bench trials that
4 they deem necessary consistent with this order. Such proceedings shall be
5 conducted by telephone or video-teleconference when feasible.
- 6 7. All non-case related activities scheduled in the Sandra Day O'Connor U.S.
7 Courthouse in Phoenix, Evo A. DeConcini Courthouse in Tucson, and the John M.
8 Roll Courthouse in Yuma, are canceled until further notice. This includes
9 naturalization ceremonies, attorney admission ceremonies, mock trials, CLE events,
10 school tours, and all other non-case related gatherings.
- 11 8. The Customer Service counters in the Clerk's Offices in Phoenix, Tucson, and
12 Yuma will be closed to the public except as stated below. This temporary closure
13 is effective March 19, 2020, through May 1, 2020, and may be continued based on
14 public health guidance. Staff in the Clerk's Offices will be available by telephone,
15 mail will be opened and processed, and new filings will also be processed during
16 this period. Those wishing to make in-person filings will be directed to leave such
17 materials at established drop boxes located near the entrances to the courthouses.
18 Criminal debt payments may also be deposited into the locked drop boxes and
19 receipts will be issued and mailed to the remitter.

20 DATED this 20th day of March, 2020

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22 _____
23 G. Murray Snow
24 Chief United States District Judge