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MARCH 18, 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**
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9 In the matter of

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

GENERAL ORDER 20-13

14 **SUPERSEDES GENERAL ORDERS**
15 **20-10 AND 20-11**

16 This General Order is being issued in response to the rapid increase in the United
17 States and the state of Arizona of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). There are
18 currently court personnel in this District being tested for COVID-19 exposure, as well as
19 an excused juror. This General Order shall supersede General Orders 20-10 and 20-11,
20 issued on March 13 and March 16, 2020, respectively.

21 In response to the continued spread of COVID-19, President Trump has declared a
22 national emergency and issued guidelines directing at-risk individuals including those 60
23 and older, to stay away from other people, to work from home whenever possible, to avoid
24 discretionary travel, and to avoid gatherings of more than ten people. Governor Ducey
25 has also declared a state of emergency in the state of Arizona. The Centers for Disease
26 Control and Prevention (CDC) and other health authorities have advised people to take
27 precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the COVID-19 virus and to slow the
28 spread of disease. In particular, the CDC is recommending that people attempt to keep
29 physical distance between themselves and other people. This technique, known as social
30 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:

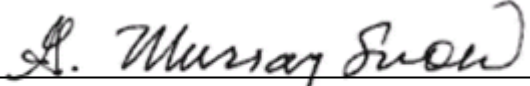
- 5 1. The Court continuances in the Tucson division under General Order 20-11 for the
6 week of March 16, 2020, shall remain in effect through March 29, 2020 subject to
7 a further continuance. Court proceedings in Yuma involving fewer than ten total
8 participants including court staff and deputy marshals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

1 they deem necessary consistent with this order. Such proceedings shall be
2 conducted by telephone or video-teleconference when feasible.

3 7. All non-case related activities scheduled in the Sandra Day O'Connor U.S.
4 Courthouse in Phoenix, Evo A. DeConcini Courthouse in Tucson, and the John M.
5 Roll Courthouse in Yuma, are canceled until further notice. This includes
6 naturalization ceremonies, attorney admission ceremonies, mock trials, CLE events,
7 school tours, and all other non-case related gatherings.

8 8. The Customer Service counters in the Clerk's Offices in Phoenix, Tucson, and
9 Yuma will be closed to the public except as stated below. This temporary closure
10 is effective March 19, 2020, through May 1, 2020, and may be continued based on
11 public health guidance. Staff in the Clerk's Offices will be available by telephone,
12 mail will be opened and processed, and new filings will also be processed during
13 this period. Those wishing to make in-person filings will be directed to leave such
14 materials at established drop boxes located near the entrances to the courthouses.
15 Criminal debt payments may also be deposited into the locked drop boxes and
16 receipts will be issued and mailed to the remitter.

17 DATED this 18th day of March, 2020

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20 G. Murray Snow
21 Chief United States District Judge
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