

## COVID-19 roundup: Court closures and procedural changes

(June 24, 2020) - Courts around the country continue to shut down or impose restrictions to cope with the spread of the coronavirus. Below is a roundup, updated frequently, of measures taken by federal and state courts.

### U.S. Supreme Court

The **U.S. Supreme Court** has modified the paper filing requirement for documents filed before a ruling on a petition for writ of certiorari or for an extraordinary writ, or prior to a decision to set a direct appeal for argument.

For those situations, a single paper copy of the document on 8 1/2-by-11-inch paper may be submitted, according to an April 17 guidance from the clerk's office. A single paper copy of petitions for rehearing may also be filed on 8 1/2-by-11-inch paper.

Filers may choose to format the document under the standards called for in Rule 33.2, in which case the rule's page limits apply, or use the standards set forth in Rule 33.1 but printed on 8 1/2-by-11-inch paper, in which case that rule's word limit applies.

Under the April 17 guidance, certain documents do not have to be filed in paper form if filed electronically, including motions for an extension of time under Rule 30.4, waiver of the right to respond to a certiorari petition under Rule 15.5, blanket consent to filing of amicus briefs under Rules 37.2(a) and 37.3(a), and motions to delay distribution of a certiorari petition under a previous Supreme Court COVID-19 order.

Parties are encouraged to agree among themselves to serve filings through electronic means only.

Filings that are hand-delivered to the Supreme Court building may be directed to the North Drive on Second Street and may take up to two days to reach the clerk's office as all such filings are being taken offsite for screening. Parties are "strongly encouraged" to send filings by mail or commercial carrier rather than hand delivery. If a document needs to be docketed quickly for any reason, the party should contact the clerk's office.

The court has extended the deadline to file certiorari petitions due on or after March 19 to 150 days from the date of a lower court judgment, order denying discretionary review, or order denying a timely petition for rehearing.

The court building remains open for official business, but most personnel are working remotely. The building is closed to the public.

### Federal appellate courts

The **1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** will hold oral arguments during its June session by video conference and will provide live audio access to the public.

The court has suspended the requirement in Local Rule 25.0(b)(1)(c) that appendices to briefs must be filed in paper form, according to an April 20 order. Until further notice, all parties represented by counsel should file appendices through the court's e-filing system. After the appendix is accepted electronically, the court may set a deadline for receipt of paper copies.

No other rules pertaining to appendices are affected by the order.

The clerk's office will not accept in-person filings at its intake window. Submissions must be left in the drop box on the first floor by the main entrance.

The **1st Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel** will not accept in-person filings at the intake window until further notice.

The **2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** will hear all oral arguments via teleconferencing only. Paper copies of documents that are otherwise required to complete a filing will not be required in any case pending further order or upon the specific request of the clerk. Paper copies of documents must continue to be served on pro se litigants.

The **3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** remains open with staff working remotely, the clerk's office said in an April 1 statement. The court's e-filing system can now accept original proceeding submissions such as petitions for review, petitions for writ of mandamus or prohibition, or motions for leave to file a second or successive habeas petition, according to a June 4 order.

Parties can request to argue telephonically by filing a motion. The requirement to submit hard copies of filings is suspended.

The **4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** has adopted measures to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus at the Lewis F. Powell Jr. U.S. Courthouse Complex, according to a June 1 order. The courthouse is closed to everyone except authorized visitors.

Everyone seeking entry to the courthouse must wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth, except for children under age 10 and people with health conditions that prohibit wearing a face covering.

Entry is barred to anyone who:

- has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has not been advised by a medical professional to discontinue isolation.
- has been asked to self-quarantine by a medical professional.
- has had contact in the past 14 days with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or who has been told to self-isolate by a medical professional.
- has traveled internationally or to areas heavily infected by the coronavirus within the past 14 days.
- has symptoms of COVID-19.

Papers may be filed with the court in a room designated for that purpose at the courthouse's Main Street lobby entrance.

The **5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** has canceled in-person oral arguments scheduled for June 29-July 2. The clerk's office will advise counsel how their cases will be handled.

The requirement for filing paper copies of e-filed documents is suspended until further notice.

Under a June 2 order, filing deadlines for incarcerated pro se filers will be extended in 30-day increments until further notice. The order cites measures taken by federal and state prisons within the circuit to deal with the coronavirus, as well as a "nationwide total lockdown" of all federal prisons in response to recent protests and civil disorder.

All oral arguments scheduled through June in the **6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** will be held remotely, according to a May 21 notice.

In the **7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals**, all cases scheduled for oral argument through Aug. 31 will be argued either telephonically or using Zoom. The courtroom is closed to the public, but the court will livestream the oral argument audio to YouTube. Parties who agree among themselves to waive oral argument may file a joint motion seeking permission from the court to do so.

The requirement for filing paper copies of electronically filed documents under Fed. R. App. P. 30(a)(3), C.R. 31(b) and C.R. 40(b) is suspended.

Under a May 27 order, anyone seeking entry to the Everett McKinley Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago and the Stanley J Roszkowski U.S. Courthouse in Rockford, Illinois, must wear a face mask that completely covers the nose and mouth.

The **8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** is operating normally, but the public is not permitted in the clerk's office. All documents should be filed electronically. The requirement for filing paper copies of e-filed documents is suspended.

Oral arguments in the **9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** are being held remotely.

Parties seeking extensions of deadlines for nonjurisdictional filings must file a notice with the court, which will result in an automatic extension of the briefing schedule by 60 days. Applications for emergency stays or other relief should be emailed to [emergency@ca9.uscourts.gov](mailto:emergency@ca9.uscourts.gov).

The **Richard H. Chambers U. S. Courthouse** is closed to the public during noncourt weeks, according to a notice from the **9th Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel**. Litigants are encouraged to use e-filing. Those without access should send pleadings via U.S. mail or other commercial delivery service.

The **10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** is operating on "maximum telework status." The **Byron White U.S. Courthouse** is closed to the public. The court has suspended its rule requiring paper copies of briefs, appendices and petitions for rehearing en banc.

The court is assessing all cases scheduled for oral argument in May. Cases will be argued telephonically, submitted on the briefs or rescheduled for in-person argument.

The **11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** has authorized panels to hear all oral arguments by audio or teleconferencing. Arguments will be livestreamed to the public where feasible, except for cases that would not normally be heard publicly, such as those involving national security.

The requirement for filing paper copies of e-filed documents is suspended. The Elbert P. Tuttle Courthouse and the John C. Godbold Federal Building are closed to everyone except judges, court staff, members of the media and visitors with official court business.

The **District of Columbia U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** has suspended all in-person oral arguments and is requiring that they take place by teleconference, be postponed or be decided without oral argument.

Access to the **E. Barrett Prettyman U.S Courthouse** and **William B. Bryant Annex** is restricted to judges, court staff, members of the media and those with official court business. All people entering the courthouse and the annex must wear face masks covering the nose and mouth. The court will provide disposable masks for those without one.

The requirement to file paper copies of documents filed electronically is suspended.

All oral arguments scheduled in the **U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit** will be held telephonically until further notice. Public access information for live audio of the arguments will be available on the court's website each day of arguments. Audio recordings will be available on the court's website.

The requirement to file hard copies of e-filed documents is suspended. The clerk's office has reduced public assistance by phone. Members of the public are asked to email questions about pending cases to [casequestions@cafc.uscourts.gov](mailto:casequestions@cafc.uscourts.gov) and to use [publicinformation@cafc.uscourts.gov](mailto:publicinformation@cafc.uscourts.gov) for all other inquiries.

## Federal district courts

### Alabama

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama** issued a March 30 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

A May 4 order lifted the prohibition on conducting in-person hearings and conferences, originally entered March 17. Judges may begin holding in-person hearings as necessary at their discretion, mindful of the health and safety of participants. All non-necessary hearings should proceed by phone or video conference.

Attorneys and parties are encouraged to continue discovery and briefing by telework, as appropriate.

The stay of all unexpired deadlines and briefing schedules in civil cases originally entered March 17 was terminated in an April 30 order. However, individual judges may reinstate the stay at their discretion.

The stay did not toll or affect the applicability of any statutory or rules-based requirements or deadlines, including (but not limited to) statutes of limitations and deadlines for filing appeals.

Those portions of the March 17 order continuing all civil and criminal jury trials, bench trials, trial-specific deadlines and grand jury proceedings until further notice remain in effect. The 30-day period for filing a grand jury indictment remains tolled. The duration of the continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Under an April 24 order, the court extended by 60 days the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings for all seizures that occurred between Feb. 16 and April 16.

For all property seizures by state or local law enforcement agencies that occurred between Jan. 17 and April 16, the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv) to begin administrative forfeiture proceedings is also extended 60 days.

The deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(3)(A) for filing a civil forfeiture complaint, or the inclusion of an asset in a criminal indictment, after receipt of a timely administrative claim between Jan. 17 and April 16 is extended 60 days from the current deadline.

If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before April 16, the deadline for sending required notice is extended for 60 days.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the **U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama** issued a March 30 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Under an April 5 order, members of the public and media may access court proceedings via registration links on the court's website.

In a March 18 order, the court restricted access to its **Montgomery, Dothan** and **Opelika** courthouses to judges, court staff, media personnel and visitors with official business.

An earlier order continued all civil and criminal jury trials and jury selections, grand jury proceedings and trial-specific deadlines for 30 days, effective March 17. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Initial appearances, arraignments and detention hearings before magistrate judges will proceed by phone or video conference.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Alabama** issued a March 30 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing to conduct criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Effective March 30 and until further notice, the public may view all criminal court hearings in the first-floor jury assembly room by live broadcast.

A May 1 order requires all court employees, personnel and visitors to the courthouse, including attorneys and litigants, to wear a face mask while on the courthouse premises, effective May 4. All persons will be required to submit to a COVID-19 screening before being allowed entry to the courthouse, effective May 18.

## Alaska

Under an April 21 order, effective May 1, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska** continued all grand jury proceedings scheduled to occur before June 1, extending the time period specified under previous orders.

The delay will be excluded when computing the time within which an indictment must be filed pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 3161(h)(7)(A) and (B)(i). The time period for filing an indictment in any case charged by complaint from Feb. 18 to June 16 is extended 60 days from June 16.

The court will continue to hold initial appearances and arraignments in criminal cases without unnecessary delay by phone or video conference.

All criminal and civil jury trials scheduled to begin on or before June 1 and trial-specific deadlines are continued pending further order. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Unless otherwise ordered, all other criminal proceedings, including sentencings, supervised release revocation hearings, motion hearings, plea hearings and misdemeanor bench trials, are suspended until June 1. All in-person status hearings for criminal cases are vacated.

No civil hearings scheduled to begin on or before June 1 will proceed, unless the hearing is on an emergency matter and is conducted by phone or video conference. All in-person status hearings for civil cases scheduled on or before June 1 are vacated. All civil filing deadlines are stayed, pending order of the assigned judge.

All non-case-related activities, including naturalization ceremonies and attorney admission ceremonies, remain canceled until further notice. Courthouses are closed to the public unless individuals have a scheduled appointment or are entering to submit a physical filing via the lobby drop box.

Where proceedings must be held, the public and members of the media may gain access on a toll-free conference line. Dial-in information will be available on PACER and the court calendar. The clerk's office will also provide the audio record of any public proceeding upon request.

All U.S. Probation and U.S. Pretrial Services offices are closed to the public but remain in operation.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Under an April 7 order, the court adopted temporary procedures governing motions for release of pretrial and presentence defendants related to COVID-19. The order supplements District of Alaska Local Criminal Rule 46.1 and will remain in effect until May 1.

## Arizona

Under an April 16 order, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona** extended the temporary suspension of grand jury proceedings through June 1. All criminal and civil jury trials scheduled to begin on or before June 1 are continued, pending further order. All criminal trial-specific deadlines are also continued. Individual judges may continue trial-specific deadlines in civil cases at their discretion.

The duration of continuances will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(b), the deadline for presenting a case to the grand jury is extended an additional 30 days from the indictment deadline.

A March 27 order had indefinitely extended continuances for all proceedings except essential criminal matters. Judges may hold hearings in civil matters at their discretion. All non-case-related activities, including naturalization ceremonies, attorney admission ceremonies and CLEs, remain canceled until further notice.

A May 1 order prolonged the closure of the **Flagstaff** courthouse to May 29. The building has been closed to the public since March 23, except for proceedings deemed necessary by the court, such as initial appearances. Parties to all necessary proceedings at the Flagstaff courthouse are encouraged to appear by phone or video conference, where feasible.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court issued a March 30 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing may be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Per an April 24 order, Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys and service providers may submit interim vouchers for services provided and expenses incurred through April 24. Vouchers must exceed \$1,000, although vouchers for court reporters or interpreters may be submitted regardless of dollar amount.

## Arkansas

Under an April 17 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas** remains open to the public. However, all civil and criminal jury trials and grand jury proceedings scheduled through May 29 are continued, pending further order.

The duration of continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Hearings, bench trials, and other matters in civil and criminal cases will proceed as scheduled by phone and video conference, where practicable. Judges retain the authority to manage dockets at their discretion.

Per an April 7 order, the government must timely file and serve the administrative record in all Social Security appeals electronically through the Case Management/Electronic Case Files system. The electronic copy of the record will be available only to the parties and the court. Within 90 days of the electronic filing, the U.S. must file and serve the paper record conventionally.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court issued a March 31 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Under an April 20 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas** continued all civil and criminal jury trials through June 1, extending the time period specified in a March 16 order. The duration of criminal continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All petty offense and grand jury proceedings are continued, pending further order. The 30-day time period for filing an indictment or an information is tolled, pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 3161(b) and 3161(h)(7)(A).

Per a March 16 order, civil hearings, including settlement conferences, will take place as scheduled and may be conducted by videoconference at the discretion of the presiding judge.

Criminal matters, including change-of-plea and sentencing hearings, initial appearances and arraignments, will also take place as scheduled and may be conducted by videoconference at the discretion of the presiding judge.

Under a March 31 order in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, judges are authorized to use video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

April and May naturalization ceremonies are canceled. Courthouses remain open with limited services available. People seeking admittance will be subject to screening.

## California

In an April 13 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Central District of California** extended its continuity of operations plan through June 1. The plan was previously in place from March 31 to May 4 for grand jury proceedings and March 23 to May 1 for all other matters.

Under the plan, jurors will not be called in for service in civil or criminal trials. Grand jury proceedings are suspended. All filing deadlines remain in place, unless otherwise ordered. Hearings in civil matters will proceed only by video or phone conference.

Courthouses remain closed to the public. April and May naturalization ceremonies are canceled.

Criminal duty matters such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings and the issuance of search warrants will continue to take place in the ordinary course, with a preference for appearances made by video or phone conference. Remote hearings on other criminal matters may proceed at individual judges' discretion.



In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court has authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

An April 17 order stayed actions brought against the commissioner of Social Security pursuant to 42 U.S.C.A. § 405(g). The order applies to cases filed on or after April 17 and actions in which the commissioner has not yet prepared and served plaintiffs with certified administrative records. The stay will remain in effect until the commissioner resumes operations. However, plaintiffs may continue to serve the U.S. with summons and complaints in newly filed actions.

As per an April 30 order by the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California**, no civil or criminal jury trials will commence before June 1, extending the time period specified under previous orders. Grand jury proceedings are suspended until that date, and all other civil matters — including motion hearings, case management conferences, pretrial conferences, settlement conferences, and Alternative Dispute Resolution proceeding s— will be decided on the papers, or via a phone or video conference hearing.

Initial appearances and other criminal proceedings before magistrate judges will proceed by phone or video conference. Criminal appearances before the district judges may be waived, postponed, or conducted by phone or video conference. To the extent possible, after lodging or filing an application to enter an open guilty plea or a plea agreement, guilty pleas and sentencings will be consolidated for a date after the presentence report has been prepared.

Case-by-case exceptions to any of the above procedures may be ordered for nonjury matters at the discretion of the assigned judge.

Members of the press and public will be permitted to hear or observe phone and video hearings, to the extent practicable. Access information will be available on PACER and the assigned judge's webpage, or the ADR webpage.

Pending further notice, courthouses and law libraries are closed for public events, tours, and visits. Under an April 30 amended order, only people with official business or authorization of a presiding judge may enter courthouses. Those with a legitimate need to observe in-person hearings may do so.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court has authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

For circumstances in which the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure require a defendant's consent to be in writing, the defendant can sign electronically, or defense counsel or the presiding judge may sign on the defendant's behalf if the defendant consents after an opportunity to consult with counsel.

A March 30 order suspended requirements that the **U.S. Marshals Service** effect personal service of process under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(c)(3), 28 U.S.C.A. § 1915(d), or 28 U.S.C.A. § 1916. In any civil case in which the U.S. Marshals Service has been ordered to serve process, the time for service is tolled until further notice.

Civil Local Rule 5-1 requiring that a courtesy copy of any filing be provided to the assigned judge's chambers and that pro se parties must request permission from the assigned judge to use the court's Electronic Case Filing system is suspended until further notice.

Under a May 15 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California** resumed limited in-person proceedings and began to expand court operations. Beginning June 1, judges may conduct in-person proceedings, except jury trials, in all civil cases. Judges may also conduct select in-person criminal proceedings for defendants who are not in custody.

Criminal proceedings may include initial appearances, preliminary hearings, waivers of indictment, arraignments, contested probation and supervised release hearings, pretrial release revocation hearings, misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, motion hearings and nonjury trials.

Where the defendant is in custody, all the above-described proceedings, except for nonjury trials, may be conducted by videoconferencing or by a combination of in-person proceedings and videoconferencing.

Scheduling of all proceedings is at the discretion of the assigned judge. Each judge will determine whether conducting in-person proceedings poses health and safety risks and will accommodate any person who expresses a reasonable concern over appearing in person.

Criminal and civil jury trials remain postponed. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Grand jurors may be available to serve beginning May 20, subject to limitations imposed by the court in consultation with the U.S. attorney's office.

Magistrate judges will give scheduling priority to preliminary hearings under Rule 5.1 in all criminal cases in which the grand jury has not returned an indictment and the defendant is being held in custody.

Effective May 1, all visitors entering federal courthouses and **U.S. Probation and U.S. Pretrial Services** offices must wear a face covering. The order was in response to **San Diego County's** mandate that residents wear face coverings while in public or while within 6 feet of a non-household member.

As per a public notice, the court will take additional protective measures as operations resume. These measures include screening to prevent high-risk visitors from entering courthouses, providing gloves and sanitizing wipes in the courtrooms, permitting counsel to make arguments from counsel tables rather than from the lectern, and postponing nonessential visits by large groups.

Under an April 14 order, the court extended by 60 days the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings for all seizures that occurred between Feb. 3 and April 30.

For all property seizures by state or local law enforcement agencies that occurred between Jan. 3 and April 30, the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv) to begin administrative forfeiture proceedings is also extended 60 days.

The 90-day deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(3)(A) for filing a civil forfeiture complaint, or the inclusion of an asset in a criminal indictment, after receipt of a timely administrative claim between Jan. 3 and April 30, is extended to 150 days.

If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before March 31, the deadline for sending required notice is extended for 60 days.

Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys and their service providers may submit interim vouchers for compensation, without prior court approval, so long as the voucher exceeds \$500 for attorneys and \$250 for service providers and does not exceed the statutory maximum.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court has authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

In an April 8 order, the court stayed all cases proceeding under Sections 205(g) and (h) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C.A. § 405(g) and (h), that involve the commissioner of Social Security as a party. The order applies to cases filed on or after March 1 and will remain in effect until the commissioner resumes normal operations. It does not stay payment obligations for those previously determined to owe the Social Security Administration.

The **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California** requested April 8 that the Judicial Council of the 9th Circuit suspend the time limits provided by the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(c), for a period not to exceed one year, as allowed by 18 U.S.C.A. § 3174(b). According to the court, the long-standing emergency circumstances and the limited capabilities of the district, including operating with an insufficient number of judges, makes the district unable to comply with the Section 3161(c) time limits.

Under an April 14 order, the court stayed all cases proceeding under the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C.A. § 405(g), that involve the commissioner of Social Security as a party. The order applies to cases filed on or after Feb. 1 and will remain in effect until the commissioner resumes normal operations. It does not stay payment obligations for those previously determined to owe the Social Security Administration.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court issued a March 30 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

A March 25 court order instituted temporary procedures to provide attorneys digital access to pretrial services reports in lieu of physical distribution and collection and allow pretrial services officers to appear by phone in criminal cases.

Per a May 13 order, all courthouses remain closed to the public until further notice. Only persons on official business may enter. Those considered on official business are counsel and parties ordered to appear and media members who can present bona fide press credentials to court security and identify the proceeding they will attend.

The court will not call in jurors for service in civil or criminal jury trials until further notice. All civil matters, including motion hearings, case management conferences, pretrial conferences and settlement conferences, will be decided on the papers or by phone or video conference. A previous order had continued civil and criminal jury trials through May 1, but kept all case filing deadlines in place.

Initial appearances, arraignments and other essential criminal proceedings will continue to be held before duty magistrate judges by phone or video conference. Assigned judges in other criminal matters may continue cases at their discretion. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). The time limits imposed by 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(c) remain suspended until May 2, 2021.

Individual judges may order case-by-case exceptions to limitations at their discretion and after consultation with counsel and the clerk of court.

Members of the public wishing to remotely access court proceedings may obtain instructions by viewing the top of the calendar for the hearing they want to attend. Pro se parties should file documents by mail or use the drop boxes located inside the entrances to the **Fresno, Modesto** and **Sacramento** courthouses.

Under an April 15 order, in cases where a judge finds that obtaining a defendant's actual signature is impracticable or imprudent in light of public health concerns, any document may be signed electronically or by the presiding judge or defense counsel on the defendant's behalf, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

## Colorado

Under an April 21 order, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado** closed courthouses to the public until May 29, extending the time period specified in a previous order. Only those with official business may enter.

All civil and criminal trials scheduled through July 6 are continued until further notice, per a May 6 order. All grand jury proceedings are suspended through May 29. **Central Violations Bureau** calendars are continued through May 29. Naturalization ceremonies and public and bar-related functions are postponed or canceled through May 29.

Effective March 30 and until further notice, pro se litigants may file documents by U.S. mail or email or via a drop box inside the front door of the **Alfred A. Arraj Courthouse** in Denver. Email filers must include their name, address and phone number, place their case number in the subject line along with "Pro Se Filing" and attach a signed PDF or Word document.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado** issued an April 6 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

According to an April 8 order regarding in-person detention hearings, the **U.S. Probation Office** may provide an electronic copy of a bond report and all supplemental bond reports to attorneys in lieu of physical distribution and collection. The order is in effect for 90 days.

Pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 3006A(a)(1) and (c), the court appointed the **Office of the Federal Public Defender** to represent defendants petitioning the Court for compassionate release under Section 603(b) of the First Step Act, 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 3582(c) and (d). The **U.S. Probation Office** is authorized to disclose presentence investigation reports, judgments and statements of reasons to counsel, as they pertain to a defendant's eligibility for relief.

In an April 23 order, the court extended by 60 days the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings for all seizures set to occur between Feb. 20 and April 20.

For all property seizures by state or local law enforcement agencies set to occur between Jan. 20 and April 20, the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv) to begin administrative forfeiture proceedings is also extended 60 days.

If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before May 15, the deadline for sending required notice is extended for 60 days.

## Connecticut

Under an April 27 order, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut** continued all in-person civil and criminal proceedings scheduled to begin on or before June 15, extending the timeline previously ordered. However, presentment of new arrests, detention hearings, grand jury returns and civil matters requiring a prompt hearing under Fed. R. Civ. P. 65 will continue to be handled in court or by video conference.

Judges may, at their discretion, choose to handle other matters in court or via video or phone conference wherever it may be in the interests of justice to do so after giving due consideration public health risks.

Because the grand jury performs an essential service that can be safely conducted in a courtroom without breaching social distancing protocols, the **U.S. attorney's office** may conduct grand jury proceedings in person beginning May 18. Proceedings will take place only in the **New Haven** courthouse. All grand jurors must wear masks while in the courthouse.

The duration of any continuances remains excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Courthouses are open for business, although clerk's office staff are directed to continue to telework to the extent possible. The clerk's office will continue to process filings and answer questions over the phone.

In a March 29 order in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court authorized judges to conduct criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, by video or phone conference with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

The **Office of the Federal Public Defender** is appointed to represent defendants who may be eligible for compassionate release related to the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with an April 7 order. The **U.S. Probation Office** and the clerk of court are authorized to provide counsel with presentence reports, statements of reasons and judgments and commitment orders, as they pertain to a defendant's eligibility for relief.

## Delaware

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware** issued an April 1 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Under an April 9 order, counsel providing representation under the Criminal Justice Act may submit interim vouchers for fees and expenses without filing a motion with the court. The initial voucher may be submitted no sooner than four months after the date of appointment.

Subsequent interim vouchers may be submitted if the previous interim voucher is greater than \$4,000 or at four-month intervals. Within 45 days of the conclusion of the representation, counsel should submit a final voucher.

Per an April 17 order, civil and criminal jury selections and jury trials scheduled to begin on or before May 31 are continued pending further order. All deadlines set by federal or local rules or court orders remain in effect, unless otherwise ordered.

Individual judicial officers may continue to schedule and hold hearings, conferences, sentencings, change of plea hearings and bench trials at their discretion, but are encouraged to conduct proceedings by phone or video conference where practicable and permitted by law.

Under an April 28 order, the court suspended all grand jury sessions through May 22, extending the time period specified in an earlier order. The time limit for filing an indictment or an information is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

In criminal cases, the period between March 18 and April 30 will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A), per a March 18 order. All **Central Violations Bureau** proceedings through June 1 are continued pending further order.

Under a March 27 order, the deadline for filing court records related to the state's responses to writ of habeas corpus petitions under 28 U.S.C.A. § 2254 is extended through June 1.

Effective March 18 and until further notice, sealed criminal documents must be filed via email as a PDF attachment. The PDF should be labeled with the case number and assigned judge's initials. If multiple defendants are involved, the defendant's suffix number must also be included.

Under an April 29 order, in cases where a judge finds that obtaining a defendant's actual signature is impracticable or imprudent in light of public health concerns, any document may be signed electronically or by the presiding judge or defense counsel on the defendant's behalf, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Per an April 28 order, courthouse visitors, including attorneys and litigants, must wear a mask or face covering when interacting with court staff and when in the common or public areas of court facilities. Court staff are requested to wear a mask or face covering when interacting with the public.

## District of Columbia

Under an April 2 order, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia** postponed and continued civil and criminal jury trials, jury selections, and grand jury sessions and impanelments through June 11. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All other civil, criminal and bankruptcy proceedings — including hearings, settlement conferences, naturalization ceremonies, and misdemeanor, petty and traffic offense dockets — are postponed through June 1, unless otherwise ordered.

The 30-day time period for filing a grand jury indictment will be tolled from March 17 to June 11. Statutes of limitation will not be tolled.

The June 1 and June 11 timelines extended those previously ordered March 17.

The criminal duty magistrate judge will continue to conduct proceedings remotely for detained defendants as per a March 30 order in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

That order authorized judges to use video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Under an April 8 order, the public and media will be provided access to civil, criminal and other proceedings conducted remotely with the consent of the presiding judge.

Attorney admission ceremonies scheduled through June 15 are canceled. Petitions for admission to the bar will continue to be accepted via PACER and will be processed without the need for an in-person hearing. Applicants are permitted to swear the required oath in writing.

The court remains open with limited operations to support essential functions. Public access to the courthouse is restricted. Pro se litigants may submit filings by email or deposit them with a date-stamp in drop boxes at the courthouse entrance.

Effective April 27, all persons entering the courthouse, including attorneys and litigants, must wear a mask or face covering over the nose and mouth. Those without a mask may be provided one or denied entry and asked to make alternate arrangements with the court. Court staff are also asked to wear a mask or face covering at all times.

As per a March 23 order, Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys and their service providers are permitted to submit interim vouchers for services rendered in all pending matters no sooner than two months after the date of appointment. Subsequent interim vouchers may be submitted when the current interim voucher amount is greater than \$2,000 or no sooner than two months after a previous voucher was submitted.

Under a March 31 order, any required personal service of process by the **U.S. Marshals Service** under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(c)(3), 28 U.S.C.A. §1915(d) or 28 U.S.C.A. §1916 is suspended until June 15.

In a May 5 order, the court extended by 60 days the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings for all seizures set to occur between Feb. 3 and May 15.

For all property seizures by state or local law enforcement agencies set to occur between Jan. 3 and April 15, the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv) to begin administrative forfeiture proceedings is also extended 60 days.

The 90-day deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(3)(A) for filing a civil forfeiture complaint, or the inclusion of an asset in a criminal indictment, after receipt of a timely administrative claim between Feb. 3 and May 15 is extended to 150 days.

If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before May 15, the deadline for sending required notice is extended for 60 days.

## Florida

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the **U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida** has authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

The public and media may access hearings remotely through an automated signup tool on the court's website.

Effective April 9, jurors may request a postponement of jury service in writing or by phone due to coronavirus concerns. The Jacksonville division postponed all large gatherings until May 31 and the Orlando division postponed all large gatherings until further notice.

As of June, Jacksonville division judges are traveling to conduct naturalization ceremonies. Judges and participants will follow safety guidelines, including social distancing.

Per a series of June orders, every person over the age of 2 who enters a federal courthouse in any division except Tampa, including building tenants, must wear a mask or other face covering while in public areas, unless otherwise directed.

The **U.S. attorney's office**, the **Federal Public Defender office**, and **Probation and Pretrial Services** are working under teleworking protocols.

In-person meet-and-confer requirements in civil cases are suspended in the Jacksonville and Orlando divisions. These meetings may be conducted by phone or video without any need for application to the court.

Magistrate judges in the Jacksonville division will conduct initial appearances and arraignments in one proceeding, and, if possible, the detention hearing or a colloquy for a waiver of a detention hearing in the same proceeding.

March 19, March 20 and March 26 orders in the Fort Myers, Jacksonville and Orlando divisions, respectively, continued all civil and criminal jury trials and trial specific deadlines. The continuances will last until June 30 in the Orlando division and expired May 31 in the Fort Myers and Jacksonville divisions, pending further order.

The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Judges may conduct hearings, bench trials and conferences at their discretion by phone or video conference, where practicable.

Criminal matters before magistrate judges, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings and search-warrant requests, will continue to take place in the ordinary course or by video conference in the Fort Myers division.

Grand juries in the Fort Myers and Jacksonville divisions will continue to meet as directed by the U.S. attorney's office, pending further order of the court. Absent emergencies, additional grand jury empanelment will be postponed pending further order.

Per an April 7 memorandum, the Jacksonville division encourages counsel to continue work on civil and criminal matters, attending scheduled mediations by video or audio, engaging in discovery, and meeting motion filing deadlines. Depositions can be taken remotely with the consent of all parties. No courtesy copies of filings may be delivered to the court until further notice.



Effective March 26, public intake areas in the clerk's offices remain closed until further notice. Those without access to the court's e-filing system may submit filings using a form available on the court's website or use the drop boxes located outside each clerk's office.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida** has authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

A May 7 order suspended all naturalization ceremonies and continued all jury trials and grand jury proceedings through June 30, prolonging the time periods specified in previous orders. All trial specific deadlines in criminal cases scheduled to begin before July 1 are also continued. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A) and (h)(7)(B).

In-person hearings, where possible, have been converted to phone or video conference hearings. All initial appearances before the **Central Violations Bureau** previously rescheduled to June 17 will take place July 15 in the Pensacola and Panama City divisions and July 26 in the Gainesville division.

As part of the court's continuity of operations plan, all courthouses remain closed to the public. Only those who are required to attend in-person hearings, trials or other necessary matters may enter, and must maintain at least a 6-foot distance from others.

All court staff have been directed to telework. The public intake counter will not be accessible. Those without access to the court's electronic filing system must submit nonemergency filings by mail. If individuals need to file an emergency document, they must contact the clerk's office to notify the court and make arrangements to submit the filing.

Per a May 31 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida** continued all jury trials scheduled to begin on or after March 30, all criminal trial-specific deadlines and grand jury trials until Aug. 31, extending the time period specified in previous orders. The duration of criminal continuances, including the 30-day period for filing an information or an indictment and the 90-day period in which a trial must commence, are excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Judges may continue trial-specific deadlines in civil cases and proceed with hearings, conferences and bench trials at their discretion. However, judges are "strongly encouraged" to conduct court proceedings by phone or video conferencing, where practicable.

Criminal matters before magistrate judges, including initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings and the issuance of search warrants, will continue to take place in the ordinary course.

A March 18 order that reduced staffing at all courthouse locations and reduced the clerk's office public intake window hours remains in effect. The court remains partially open to conduct necessary judicial business. All naturalization ceremonies are suspended through Aug. 31.

For those admitted to the courthouse, face masks or coverings that completely conceal the mouth and nose are required for those over the age of 2. Entrants must adhere to social distancing guidelines, including keeping a 6-foot distance from others.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court issued has authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Per notices issued in early April, the public may access criminal court duty hearings by calling the toll-free number associated with the relevant court location and entering its access code. Numbers and access codes are posted on the District Court's website.

Per an April 10 notice, defense counsel who wish to meet with clients before morning duty hearings in the **West Palm Beach courthouse** may do so in the U.S. marshal's cellblock, as long as they arrive early enough to make the necessary arrangements with the **U.S. Marshals Service**. Counsel may alternatively use video or phone conferencing available in the duty courtroom to speak with clients in their cellblock. Defense counsel wishing to use remote conferencing must inform the duty magistrate judge no later than one day before the scheduled hearing.

## Georgia

The **U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia** has continued all jury trials through July 13, extending the time period specified under an earlier order. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

In a March 20 amended order, the court canceled all hearings in criminal matters except for initial appearances, arraignments, detention and revocation hearings, and sentencings likely to result in time served.

A March 30 order in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Per an April 30 order, grand jury proceedings may be conducted under limited circumstances. Grand jurors who do not have their own face masks will be provided one upon arrival to the courthouse. To maximize social distancing, grand jurors will be divided among four courtrooms linked by video conferencing technology.

Under another April 30 order, the court extended the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings by 60 days for all federal seizures set to occur between Feb. 3 and April 30.

For all property seizures by state or local law enforcement agencies set to occur between Jan. 3 and April 30, the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv) to begin administrative forfeiture proceedings is also extended for 60 days.

The 90-day deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(3)(A) for filing a civil forfeiture complaint, or the inclusion of an asset in a criminal indictment, after receipt of a timely administrative claim between Feb. 3 and April 30 is extended to 150 days.

If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before March 31, the deadline for sending the required notice is extended for 60 days.

In an April 7 order, the court authorized U.S. probation officers to monitor persons under their supervision by virtual means. Individuals whose supervision conditions do not permit internet access are temporarily authorized to use a third party's internet capable device to communicate with their probation officers. The device must be approved by the probation office and the third party must be present during the communication.

Effective April 6, the clerk's office will no longer permit in-person filings. Pro se parties may file documents by U.S. mail or to the appropriate divisional email. Members of the media seeking remote access to court hearings should contact the clerk's office.

In a March 30 order in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia** authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Per a separate March 30 order, Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys may submit interim vouchers greater than \$1,000 for services rendered in pending matters six months after the date of their appointment. Subsequent vouchers may be submitted no sooner than two months later in amounts greater than \$3,000.

Under a June 2 order, the court authorized persons provisionally admitted to the **State Bar of Georgia** due to postponement of the July bar examination to apply for provisional admission to the District Court. Applicants must pay an admission fee and identify a supervising attorney who has been an active member in good standing of the District Court's bar for at least five years and who has never been publicly disciplined.

Per a May 26 amended order, all jury trials are continued through July 3, extending the time period specified in previous orders. Grand jury proceedings may be held beginning June 1. The duration of continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Effective April 1 and until further notice, the court has authorized special procedures allowing attorneys to file sealed documents in both unsealed and sealed criminal matters electronically. Issuance of attorney identification cards is temporarily suspended, effective April 13.

Under an April 8 order, the public counters in the Rome and Gainesville divisions are closed until further notice. Litigants in those divisions may securely submit filings at drop boxes at or near court entrances.

Per an April 16 order, the media and public are authorized to access video and phone conference proceedings to the extent practicable and subject to procedures established by the clerk of courts.

The 11th Circuit Judicial Conference slated for May was canceled.

Under a March 17 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia** restricted courthouse access to those on official business, unless otherwise authorized by a judge. Jury trials may be continued through May 31 per an April 16 order. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Criminal matters before magistrate judges, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings, the issuance of search warrants, and traffic court will continue to take place in the ordinary course. Grand juries continue to meet. Judges will continue to hold hearings, conferences, and jury or bench trials, unless ordered otherwise. The clerk's office and the **U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services** office remain open.

Under a March 30 order in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the court authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

According to an April 9 order, in cases where a judge finds that obtaining a defendant's actual signature is impracticable or imprudent in light of public health concerns, any document may be signed electronically or by the presiding judge or defense counsel on the defendant's behalf, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

## Guam

Under a May 28 order, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Guam** began a phased approach to reopening its courthouse to the public following the gradual lifting of restrictions on public activities by the governor. The court was previously closed to the public through June 5 in response an order by the governor prolonging the declaration of a public health emergency.

Courthouse access is restricted to building tenants, attorneys, members of the media and public attending scheduled proceedings, jurors and those with confirmed appointments with chambers. Effective May 14, all courthouse tenants and visitors over the age of 2 must wear face coverings in common areas and when within 6 feet of other individuals on the premises.

Members of the media and public may still monitor court proceedings by phone and should contact the chief deputy clerk for dial-in instructions. The clerk's office is open to the public weekday mornings only. Those wishing to make in-person or emergency filings outside of open hours should call the on-duty clerk and leave the filings at the drop-off box located on the first floor of the courthouse.

All civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to begin on or before June 16 are continued pending further order, extending the timeline previously given. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Per a May 4 order, the grand jury panel's 12-month term of service was extended to 18 months as permitted under Fed. R. Crim. P. 6(g). All regularly scheduled grand jury proceedings have resumed as of May 28.

Judges may proceed with in-court civil and criminal hearings, conferences, bench trials and bankruptcy matters at their discretion, but are "strongly encouraged" to do so via phone or video conferencing where practicable. However, guilty pleas, sentencing, and criminal evidentiary hearings requiring witness testimony must be held in-court.

Previously, all sentencing and revocation hearings scheduled to be heard on or before June 5 and any related deadlines were continued until further order. Any prior ordered presentence report due dates were vacated and will be rescheduled.

Pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, judges are authorized to use video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

The **U.S. Pretrial and Probation Office**, previously closed to the public through June 5, is open by appointment only. Pretrial services is authorized to email attorneys pretrial services reports in lieu of physical distribution and collection to facilitate remote hearings. No copies of the report may be retained by recipients after completion of the hearing.

All non-case-related activities, including naturalization ceremonies and community outreach events, are canceled through July. Drug offender re-entry program hearings will be held virtually until further order.

## Hawaii

The **U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii** issued a June 1 order opening the courthouse for nonjury matters on June 15. All persons above age 2 entering the courthouse, including attorneys, litigants and members of the public and media, are required to wear a face mask covering the nose and mouth while in common areas and maintain 6 feet of distance from other individuals on the premises. Those who do not have a face mask will be provided one.

Civil and criminal jury trials are not to begin before Aug. 3. Counsel in criminal trials scheduled to begin before Aug. 3 should meet and attempt to reach a stipulation as to a new trial date and tolling time under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). For criminal trials set to begin on or after that date, counsel should confer as to the feasibility of proceeding as scheduled, given the time needed to prepare for trial and the ongoing pandemic.

Per a May 29 order, grand jury proceedings were permitted to begin the week of June 1. On days that a grand jury is in session but the courthouse is otherwise closed, the **U.S. Marshals Service** will permit courthouse entry to grand jurors and others with grand jury business such as witnesses, attorneys, court reporters and interpreters.

Each presiding judge will determine whether civil, nonjury matters set after June 15 will be taken off the calendar pursuant to Local Rule 7.1, conducted in-court, or by phone or video conferencing. Criminal matters that fall outside the March 30 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act order will be conducted in court, where possible.

The CARES Act order authorized judges to use video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Remote civil and criminal hearings will be conducted on a toll-free teleconference line available to the public and the media, to the extent practicable. Dial-in information will be available on each case's individual docket on PACER.

Paper filings must be deposited in the drop box located outside the courthouse. Pro se litigants may file by email or by using the drop box. Until further notice, in both civil and criminal matters, no courtesy copies of filings are to be provided to chambers unless specifically ordered.

An April 27 order extended the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings by 60 days for all federal seizures set to occur between Feb. 3 and May 4.

For all property seizures by state or local law enforcement agencies set to occur between Jan. 3 and May 4, the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv) to begin administrative forfeiture proceedings is also extended 60 days.

The 90-day deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(3)(A) for filing a civil forfeiture complaint, or the inclusion of an asset in a criminal indictment, after receipt of a timely administrative claim between Jan. 3 and May 4 is extended to 150 days.

If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before April 5, the deadline for sending the required notice is extended for 60 days.

Under an April 23 order, the court appointed the **Federal Public Defender's Office** to represent defendants requesting compassionate release under the 2018 First Step Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3582(c)(1)(A). The **U.S. Probation Office** is authorized to disclose presentence investigation reports, **Bureau of Prisons** sentry reports and any other relevant records to defense counsel and the **U.S. attorney's office** as they pertain to a defendant's eligibility for compassionate release.

## Idaho

All grand jury proceedings and jury trials scheduled to begin on or before May 31 in the **U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho** are suspended or continued. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

The closure and continuances extend the timelines specified under a March 17 order.

Per an April 2 order, the District Court altered the procedure for filings made pursuant to the Bail Reform Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3141 et seq., in response to COVID-19. Motions made under the act that are unrelated to COVID-19 may proceed as usual.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court issued a March 30 order authorizing judges to use video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Under a March 17 order, the District Court canceled all public events and ceremonies scheduled at its courthouses.

No in-person civil case hearings or proceedings will be conducted unless otherwise ordered. All motions will be decided on the briefs unless all parties request a hearing conducted via video conference or telephone.

A March 18 order authorized Criminal Justice Act Panel attorneys to submit interim vouchers for compensation without prior court approval, so long as each voucher exceeds \$500 and is not submitted within two months of a prior interim voucher in the same criminal matter.

## Illinois

The **U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois** has closed its courthouses in **Springfield** and **Urbana** to the public and closed the **Rock Island Division** to the public. The **Peoria Division** remains open with limited staff.

Per an April 30 amended order, all civil and criminal jury trials, petty offense proceedings, sentencing hearings and supervised release revocation hearings are continued through May 30, extending the timeline specified in previous orders.

Initial appearances and arraignments will continue to be conducted by video conference with the defendant's consent. When reviewing a complaint or deciding whether to issue a warrant or summons, judges will do so by reliable electronic means. The duration of continuances in criminal matters are excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All civil hearings, including settlement conferences, will continue to be conducted by video or phone conference.

Nonincarcerated pro se litigants may temporarily submit filings via email. Filers must include their name, address and phone number, place their case number in the subject line and attach their signed document. No additional information or questions may be included in the email.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court issued an April 1 order authorizing judges to use video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Audio and video feeds will be available to the public and press, where practicable. Those who wish to access the feeds should contact the clerk's office before the hearing. If a defendant does not consent to the use of video or phone conferencing, the public and credentialed members of the press may attend proceedings in person at the presiding judges' discretion.

Naturalization ceremonies and other public gatherings are suspended through May.

Under an April 16 order, the court appointed the **Federal Public Defender's Office** to represent defendants requesting compassionate release under the 2018 First Step Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3582(c)(1)(A), pursuant to provisions of the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3006A(a)(1), and (c).

The **U.S. Probation Office** and clerk of court are authorized to disclose judgments, presentence investigation reports, and statements of reasons to defense counsel and the **U.S. Attorney's Office** as they pertain to a defendant's eligibility for compassionate release.

Under an April 24 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois** reset civil and criminal case proceedings, including bench trials, settlement conferences, supervised-release revocation hearings, plea hearings and sentencing hearings, scheduled on or before May 29 to June 1 or a later date.

Civil and criminal jury trials scheduled on or before June 26 will be reset to June 29 or later. The move extends the timelines given in previous orders. The duration of the continuances, plus 14 days, will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. §3161(h)(7)(A). The duration of criminal jury trial continuances will be excluded from the Act through June 29.

All criminal case proceedings that cannot be continued will be conducted in the Eastern Division by emergency district judges designated by the chief judge.

Parties seeking emergency relief must file a motion in the case in which relief is sought and in Case No. 20-cv-01792, which was created to receive emergency motions. The motion must be filed electronically or via email or deposited in a courthouse drop box.

Parties with emergency matters as defined by Local Rule 77.2(a)(3) arising during business hours should send an email to [Emergency\\_Judge@ilnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Emergency_Judge@ilnd.uscourts.gov) describing the situation. Outside of business hours, parties should leave a message at (312) 702-8875.

Grand juries will continue to meet. Judges may review complaints, applications for search warrants and wire taps, and other criminal warrants and orders electronically.

All deadlines in civil and criminal cases and Executive Committee matters are extended by 28 days beyond the 21-day extension given March 17 and the 28-day extension given March 30, unless otherwise ordered by a presiding judge.

The extensions do not apply to deadlines for filing notices of appeal or deadlines imposed by Civil Rules 50(b) or (d); 52(b), 59(b), (d), or (e); or 60(b) and Criminal Rule 35. However, the court invites parties to move under Appellate Rule 4(a)(5)(A) for an extension of time to appeal civil matters. If a timely extension motion is filed, then the court deems that good cause exists for the extension. For criminal appeal deadlines that have arisen since March 30, the court extends the deadlines 30 days from the expiration prescribed by Appellate Rule 4(b) on its own motion.

In any civil case, with certain exceptions, where no docket entry or order has been posted since March 16, parties must file a joint written status report by May 18. The exceptions are Social Security disability appeals, cases involving an unrepresented person in custody and multidistrict litigation tag-along actions.

The status report should concisely address discovery progress, briefing statuses for any unresolved motions, and settlement efforts. The report should also provide a proposed revised discovery and dispositive motion schedule for the next 45 days. Parties are also directed to include any agreed action the court may take without a hearing and state whether a remote hearing is urgent and necessary.

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, judges are authorized to use video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Felony plea hearings and felony sentencing hearings may be held remotely by teleconferencing only if videoconferencing is not reasonably available.

All public gatherings, including naturalization ceremonies, and petty offense proceedings are suspended through June 8. The clerk's offices in **Chicago** and **Rockford** are closed to the public through May 29.

The court will accept filings from pro se litigants via email through May 29. Filers must include their name, address and phone number, place their case number in the subject line along with "Pro Se Filing" and attach a signed PDF document.

Per an April 5 order, Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys are permitted to submit interim vouchers for services rendered in pending non-death penalty cases. The vouchers must be no less than \$250 and no more than the case compensation maximums



listed in Section 230.23.20 of the Guidelines for the Administration of the Criminal Justice Act. Vouchers for court reporters or interpreters may be submitted regardless of the dollar amount.

The court has suspended Local Rules 5.2(f) and 5.3(b) governing courtesy copies of filings and motions noticed for presentment through June 1.

Under an April 6 order, the court appointed the Federal Defender Program to represent defendants requesting compassionate release under Section 603 of the First Step Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3582(c)(1)(A).

The **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois** closed its courthouses to the public through May 31. Access is restricted to those on official business, unless otherwise authorized by a judge. Individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or who have symptoms, and those who have traveled outside the state two weeks prior to their visit or lived with someone who has done so, will be denied entry.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the District Court has authorized judges to use video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Audio and video feeds will be available to the press and public to the extent practicable. If a defendant does not consent to the use of video or phone conferencing, the public and credentialed members of the press may attend proceedings in person at the presiding judges' discretion.

Judges and counsel are encouraged to utilize video and phone conferencing to the extent possible to avoid unnecessary disruption in cases.

Per a May 1 order, for those without access to the electronic case filing system, documents may be submitted by mail, or, in an emergency, by email. All emergency filings must include the filers' email and phone number.

All civil and criminal jury trials on or before May 31 are stricken and will be reset by the presiding judge to a date on or after June 1. Civil matters requiring in-person appearances, including bench trials, settlement conferences and hearings through May 31 are continued, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge and conducted by video or phone conference. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. §3161(h)(7)(A).

All grand jury sessions through May 18 are suspended. **Central Violations Bureau** dockets are continued until further order. Naturalization ceremonies will not be conducted through June 4, when the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service resumes operations.

All civil case deadlines are set as of May 1. Criminal case deadlines and deadlines previously extended are not extended further. Any previous extensions granted by administrative order do not apply to deadlines for filing notices of appeal or deadlines imposed by Civil Rules 50(b) or (d), 52(b), 59(b), (d), or (e), or 60(b). However, if a timely motion for extension of an appeal deadline is filed, the court will deem good cause exists given current public health concerns. If the clerk's office becomes inaccessible due to the COVID-19 emergency, deadlines will be extended per Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(a)(3).

Personal service of process requirements under Federal rule of Civil Procedure 4(c)(3), 28 U.S.C.A. §1915(d) or §1916 are suspended.

Only essential criminal proceedings will occur and be conducted in-person, including initial appearances, arraignments and detention hearings. Probation and supervised release revocation hearings scheduled on or before May 31 are continued and will be reset to a date on or after June 1. All other criminal matters will proceed at judges' discretion. Delays are to be kept to a minimum, particularly with respect to pretrial detention hearings.

However, under April 1 and May 1 amended orders, any delay in an arrestee being brought before a magistrate judge will be deemed a necessary delay pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 5(a). Where arrestees appear without counsel, a public defender will be provisionally appointed. The U.S. Marshals Service is directed not to transport any persons subject to a writ of habeus corpus into the district through May 31.

An April 23 order established procedures for defendants seeking compassionate release under the First Step Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3582(c)(1)(A). The court will notify the **Federal Public Defender** of all pro se motions under Section 603 of the Act and the FPD must enter an appearance within 7 days.

The **U.S. Probation Office**, **U.S. attorney's office** and clerk of court are authorized to disclose presentence investigation reports, medical records, judgments and any other relevant documents to counsel as they pertain to a defendant's eligibility for relief under the act.

## Indiana

Under a May 6 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana** continued all civil and criminal jury trials through July 1, extending the timelines specified in previous orders. Grand jury proceedings, previously continued until April 13 under a March 17 order, remain continued through May 15. The court will impose reasonable limits on grand jury meetings thereafter in consultation with the U.S. attorney's office. Delay caused by continuances in criminal matters is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

In-person plea colloquies and sentencing hearings scheduled to begin before July 1 may be conducted after consultation with counsel and the **U.S. Marshals Service** at the discretion of the assigned judge, or proceed remotely in accordance with the court's March 30 order in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

That order authorized judges to use video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Per an April 6 order, the public and members of the media may access court proceedings through a call-in number posted for each judge on the court's website. If a defendant does not consent to a remote hearing, credentialed members of the press and the public may attend the hearing in person at the presiding judges' discretion.

Under a March 17 order, all naturalization ceremonies and noncore public events are canceled. All in-person civil court proceedings are converted to phone or video conference proceedings, unless otherwise ordered at the discretion of the presiding judge.

The divisional locations of the District Court, including the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court** and the **U.S. Probation Office**, remain closed to the public. Individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or who have symptoms, and those who have traveled outside the country two weeks prior to their visit or had contact with someone who has done so, will be denied entry.

In April 20 and 21 orders, the court extended by 60 days the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings for all seizures set to occur between Jan. 3 and April 30.

The 90-day deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(3)(A) for filing a civil forfeiture complaint, or the inclusion of an asset in a criminal indictment, after receipt of a timely administrative claim between Feb. 3 and April 30 is extended to 150 days.

If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before March 31, the deadline for sending required notice is extended for 60 days.

Under an April 13 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana** continued all jury trials and canceled naturalization ceremonies through May 29, reaffirming a March 20 order. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Per the March 20 order, all other civil and criminal matters will proceed as scheduled. Judges may order proceedings to take place via telephone or video conference at their discretion.

Under a March 30 order in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, judges have explicit permission to use video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

The **Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Evansville** and **New Albany** district court divisions, including the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court and U.S. Probation Office**, remain closed to the public as per March 18 orders. Court interpreters are not subject to the order and may continue entering court locations for scheduled proceedings.

The court will temporarily accept filings from pro se litigants via email, effective March 24. Filers must include their name, address and phone number, place their case number in the subject line along with "Pro Se Filing" and attach a signed PDF document. No additional information or questions may be included in the email. All payments by phone are temporarily suspended.

Through June 30, the clerk of courts will temporarily excuse potential jurors who are at high risk for, have ongoing symptoms of, or test positive for COVID-19. Also excused are essential health care workers and those who are quarantined due to exposure to the virus or who are caring for family members suspected to have the virus. Potential jurors must make a written request to be excused.

## Iowa

In an April 17 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa** reaffirmed a March 13 order barring those who are in quarantine by order of a health care provider or agency, and those who have been diagnosed with or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, from entering the courthouse.

Those who have traveled within the past 14 days or who have had contact with a traveler or infected person must inform court security officers and may be restricted from entering the building. Attorneys so affected and scheduled to appear must notify the court and may appear by phone or video conference with the presiding judge's approval.

An April 28 order continued all civil and criminal jury trials and grand jury proceedings through May 31, extending the timeline specified in earlier orders. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). The court is preparing to resume jury trials June 1 with modified proceedings and jury selection processes that incorporate social distancing.

Per a previous order, the 30-day time period for filing an indictment or an information is tolled through May 11, pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 3161(b) and 3161(h)(7)(A). Grand jury proceedings will continue as scheduled after May 11.

A March 30 order in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act authorized judges to use video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Felony plea and sentencing hearings will continue to be conducted in person. However, acknowledging the sensitivity of some individuals about attending court proceedings, the court is willing to postpone hearings in some cases. The public may obtain access to video or phone conferences by contacting the clerk's office.

Under a March 20 order and until further notice, the court has reduced the hours that the **Sioux City** and **Cedar Rapids** courthouses are accessible to the public and are open for proceedings. Naturalization ceremonies are canceled through June.

Per a March 16 order, all civil and criminal matters scheduled to commence on or before April 24 were continued pending further order of the court. Nonjury trials, such as bench trials and hearings, that have not been continued will proceed as scheduled unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge.

All deadlines established in civil cases remain in place, pending case-specific adjustments resulting from motions. Parties are encouraged to consider conducting discovery and participating in proceedings by phone or video conference where permitted by law and technologically feasible.

Under an April 8 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa** continued all civil and criminal jury trials through July 6, extending the timeline specified in an earlier order. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the District Court has authorized judges to use video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Under a March 31 order, all April grand jury proceedings were canceled. Where a defendant has been arrested on a criminal complaint and the speedy-trial clock has begun, the court has granted a continuance to return an indictment through May 28.

Nonjury trials and hearings will proceed at judges' discretion.

Per an April 29 order, the court extended by 60 days the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings for all seizures set to occur between Feb. 3 and April 30.

For all property seizures by state or local law enforcement agencies set to occur between Jan. 3 and April 30, the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv) to begin administrative forfeiture proceedings is also extended 60 days.

The 90-day deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(3)(A) for filing a civil forfeiture complaint, or the inclusion of an asset in a criminal indictment, after receipt of a timely administrative claim between Feb. 3 and April 30 is extended to 150 days.

If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before March 31, the deadline for sending required notice is extended for 60 days.

## Kansas

Under an April 10 order, all grand jury proceedings in the **U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas** are suspended indefinitely, prolonging the 30-day postponement issued under a March 13 order. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(b), if any individual is charged with a felony, the time period for presenting the case to the grand jury is extended 30 days from the indictment deadline.

All nonemergency criminal hearings and trials are also postponed until further notice, per the March 13 order. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court has authorized judges to use video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Per an April 16 order, the public may access phone and video conference hearings by contacting counsel for the parties or the courtroom deputy for the presiding judge.

The clerk's offices' public counters in Kansas City and Topeka are operating with a reduced staff, and the Wichita clerk's office public counter is closed. All naturalization ceremonies have been suspended indefinitely until large groups can safely gather again.

The court will accept filings from pro se litigants via fax, mail or email. Email filers must attach a signed PDF document. Electronic signatures will be accepted only if an original, hand-signed version of the document is submitted to the clerk's office within five business days, along with a copy of the email.

Under an April 27 order, the court extended by 60 days the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings for all federal seizures set to occur between Feb. 3 and April 30.

For all property seizures by state or local law enforcement agencies set to occur between Jan. 3 and April 30, the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv) to begin administrative forfeiture proceedings is also extended 60 days.

The 90-day deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(3)(A) for filing a civil forfeiture complaint, or the inclusion of an asset in a criminal indictment, after receipt of a timely administrative claim between Feb. 3 and April 30 is extended to 150 days.

If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before March 31, the deadline for sending required notice is extended for 60 days.

## Kentucky

Under an April 15 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky** continued all civil and criminal trials set through May 17, extending the time period specified in previous orders. Ongoing trials may proceed at the discretion of the assigned judge.

With the exception of essential criminal proceedings and emergency matters, all civil and criminal hearings, settlement conferences, and petty misdemeanor dockets set through May 1 are continued for an indefinite period, unless otherwise ordered by the assigned judge and conducted by video or phone conference.

The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). For all sealed qui tam actions filed pursuant to 31 U.S.C.A. § 3729, the United States will have an additional 60 days to intervene in the action or notify the court that it declines to do so.

All naturalization ceremonies slated before May 1 are continued. All courthouses will be open to the public on a restricted schedule through May 1.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the District Court issued a March 30 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

An April 6 order extended the authorization to felony pleas and sentencings if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Under an April 17 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky** continued all grand jury proceedings, civil and criminal trials, and traffic and petty offense dockets through May 29, extending the time period specified in previous orders. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All trial-specific deadlines in criminal cases scheduled to begin on or before May 29 are continued pending further order. Individual judges may continue trial-specific deadlines in civil cases at their discretion.

With the exceptions of emergency matters, all in-person hearings and settlement conferences in civil cases scheduled through May 29 are vacated, unless otherwise ordered to take place remotely by the presiding judge. Hearings in emergency matters, including on applications for temporary restraining orders, will be conducted by phone or video conference.

All hearings in criminal cases, including motion hearings, change-of-plea hearings and sentencings, are continued indefinitely, unless otherwise ordered to take place remotely by the assigned judge.

Initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings, issuances of warrants and revocation hearings will proceed remotely as scheduled. Appearances in any such matters ordered by summons are continued through May 29.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court authorized judges to use video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

The clerk's office is closed to all walk-in customers. Naturalization ceremonies scheduled through May 29 are postponed.

The District Court will temporarily accept filings from pro se litigants via email. Filers must include their name, address and phone number, place their case number in the subject line along with "Pro Se Filing" and attach a signed PDF or Word document. No additional information or questions may be included in the email.

For all sealed qui tam actions filed pursuant to 31 U.S.C.A. § 3729 et seq., the United States will have an additional 60 days to intervene in the action or notify the court that it declines to do so.

Per a May 4 order, the court extended by 60 days the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings for all seizures that occurred between Feb. 3 and April 30.

For all property seizures by state or local law enforcement agencies that occurred between Jan. 3 and April 30, the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv) to begin administrative forfeiture proceedings is also extended 60 days.

The 90-day deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(3)(A) for filing a civil forfeiture complaint, or the inclusion of an asset in a criminal indictment, after receipt of a timely administrative claim between Feb. 3 and April 30 is extended to 150 days.

If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before March 31, the deadline for sending required notice is extended for 60 days.

## Louisiana

The **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana** closed the **Hale Boggs Federal Building** in **New Orleans** to the public, effective April 3. Parties may file documents electronically, by U.S. mail or by fax. Pro se litigants and those with sealed filings may send filings via email.

Under an April 24 order, all civil and criminal jury trials and grand jury proceedings are suspended until Aug. 1, extending the May 1 timeline set by a previous order. Trial dates will be reset by each presiding judge. Trial-specific deadlines remain in place.

For all other civil and criminal matters requiring in-person appearances between April 24 and Aug. 1—including bench trials, hearings, and conferences—counselors are directed to contact the presiding judge's chambers to determine whether and how matters will proceed.

The duration of continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Under a March 16 order, all attorney admissions are to be handled by a motion and order mailed to the clerk of court. All other non-case-specific events, including naturalization ceremonies, are canceled through Aug. 1 and will be rescheduled when appropriate. The **Central Violations Bureau** docket remains continued.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the District Court authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice." The public may access the proceedings by submitting a request to the presiding judge's chambers.

Per a May 21 order, Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys may submit interim vouchers for compensation, without prior court approval, so long as the voucher exceeds \$1,500 and is not submitted within two months of a prior interim voucher in the same matter. The order will expire with the resumption of typical court operations.

Under a May 1 amended order, the **U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana** postponed all civil and criminal trials through June 30, extending a previously ordered timeline.

The postponement does not affect any pending deadlines except pretrial conference and trial dates. Parties seeking to modify other deadlines must do so by written motion. An earlier order had suspended prescriptive, preemptive and statute of limitation deadlines until April 30.

All civil evidentiary hearings and other in-court hearings and proceedings, including re-arraignments and sentencing hearings requiring personal appearances, are postponed through June 30, to be reset at the discretion of the presiding judge. The duration of continuances in criminal matters remains excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

The clerk of court will not accept in-person filings through June 30. Filings in sealed matters required to be filed in person pursuant to administrative procedures must be filed by fax or electronically signed and attached to an encrypted or secure email in PDF format.

Grand jury proceedings remain postponed until further notice. Essential criminal matters, such as arraignments, detention hearings and initial appearances will continue to take place by videoconference, at the discretion of the assigned judge.

Under a March 30 order in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, judges are authorized to use video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice." The public may access the proceedings by submitting a request to the presiding judge's chambers.

Per an April 19 order, when a judge finds that obtaining an actual signature is "impracticable or imprudent," any document may be signed electronically. When a defendant's signature is needed, either defense counsel or the presiding judge may sign on the defendant's behalf if the defendant, after consultation with counsel, consents on the record.

In an April 14 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana** continued all civil and criminal jury trials through July 1, extending the time period specified under a previous order. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All other hearings, conferences and proceedings are subject to the discretion of the presiding judge. Non-case-specific events, including naturalization ceremonies and continuing legal education courses, are canceled through May 31, per an April 30 supplemental order.



Public access to clerk of court offices is suspended through May 31, extending the time period previously specified. Effective March 19, initial appearance and arraignments will take place by videoconference, with counsel and law enforcement practicing appropriate social distancing and COVID-19 screening practices.

Under a March 30 order in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, judges are authorized to use video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice." The public may access the proceedings by submitting a request to the presiding judge's chambers.

A May 19 order authorizes Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys to submit interim vouchers for compensation, without prior court approval, so long as the voucher exceeds \$1,500 and is not submitted within two months of a prior interim voucher in the same matter. The order will expire with the resumption of typical court operations.

## Maine

On May 22, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Maine** announced it had begun planning for the return of employees and public access to courthouses. However, no timetable has been adopted or specific date set for the resumption of jury trials and other operations.

Per an April 29 order, the clerks' office intake windows remain closed. The offices will be open by appointment only. Staff can be reached by phone. Those wishing to file documents in person will be directed to leave the filings at a designated courthouse drop-off point at a designated time.

In-court judicial operations at the **Edward T. Gignoux Courthouse in Portland** and the **Margaret Chase Smith Courthouse in Bangor** are restricted to essential administrative functions, including case docketing, phone and video conference proceedings, property maintenance activities and other matters as approved by the chief judge.

No in-court proceedings will be held. All court employees will telework during regular business hours, unless otherwise directed. Individual judges may consider warrant requests and hold conferences, hearings, and civil bench trials by phone or video conference as they deem necessary and appropriate.

Civil and criminal jury selections, jury trials and grand jury proceedings scheduled throughout May and June are continued, extending the timelines specified in a previous order. The duration of the continuances in criminal matters will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). The 30-day time period for filing an indictment is tolled.

Deadlines in civil and criminal cases remain in place. Applications for admission to the bar will be considered without a hearing.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court issued a March 31 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice." The public and members of the media may access the proceedings by contacting the clerk's office.

In a May 11 order, the court adopted expedited procedures for handling pro se, emergency requests for compassionate release related to the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to Section 603 of the 2018 First Step Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3582(c) and (d).

Under a May 12 order, the court extended by 60 days the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings for all seizures that occurred between Feb. 20 and April 20.

For all property seizures by state or local law enforcement agencies that occurred between Jan. 21 and April 20, the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv) to begin administrative forfeiture proceedings is also extended 60 days.

The 90-day deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(3)(A) for filing a civil forfeiture complaint, or the inclusion of an asset in a criminal indictment, after receipt of a timely administrative claim between Jan. 21 and April 20 is extended to 150 days.

If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before April 20, the deadline for sending required notice is extended for 60 days.

## Maryland

In a May 22 order, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland** postponed and continued all civil and criminal petit jury selections and jury trials scheduled through June 30. The move extends the timeline specified in previous orders.

The duration of the continuances in criminal matters will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). The 30-day time period for filing an indictment or an information is tolled as to each defendant through July 31, per 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(b).

Some civil jury trials may begin on or after July 1 and some criminal jury trials may begin on or after Aug. 1 at the discretion of presiding judges after consultation with court staff regarding juror and participant safety. All other civil, criminal and bankruptcy hearings, trials, and proceedings will continue as scheduled, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge.

An earlier order that extended all filing deadlines set between March 16 and June 5 by 84 days remains in effect, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge. If counsel is unable to meet a filing deadline while remaining in full compliance with orders and public health guidance, counsel should seek an extension of time from the presiding judge.

Existing discovery deadlines falling after June 5 will be enforced. Statutes of limitation will not be tolled. Given an increased ability to operate remotely and to conduct proceedings by audio or video conference, the court will not issue further general orders to postpone and continue proceedings or extend filing deadlines.

On May 26, the court entered phase one of a multiphase recovery process. Any hearings held during phase one will occur by audio or video conference. Phase two may begin no earlier than 14 days from May 26 and may involve the resumption of some limited in-court proceedings.

Courthouses remain closed to the public. The court remains open only for emergency proceedings related to public safety, public health and welfare, and individual liberty. Clerk's office intake counters are still closed. Self-represented litigants may deposit and date-stamp papers in drop boxes at each courthouse.

An April 29 order reiterating that no members of the public, other than litigants with a scheduled proceeding, counsel of record, investigators or employees of counsel, and credentialed press, may enter any courthouse without prior permission from the

chief judge remains in effect. Entry to any U.S. probation office is barred without prior permission from the supervising U.S. probation officer.

Under a May 13 order, all persons seeking entry to district courthouses must wear a mask for the duration of their stay. Those who do not have a mask will be provided one. Court employees may remove their masks when in a private office or workspace that permits at least 6 feet of physical distance from others. Those who are in quarantine by order of a health care provider or agency or those who have been diagnosed with or who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will continue to be barred from courthouses. All people seeking entrance should expect to be screened for flu-like symptoms.

According to a May 22 order, naturalization and admission ceremonies remain postponed through June. Central Violations Bureau proceedings (misdemeanor, traffic, and petty offense dockets) are postponed and continued through Aug. 31, extending the timeline specified in a previous order.

A March 31 order limited all in-court proceedings to Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays, unless otherwise ordered by a presiding judge.

In a March 29 order, in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the District Court authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

According to a March 25 order, counsel providing representation under the Criminal Justice Act may submit interim vouchers for payment of fees and expenses without filing a motion. The initial voucher may be submitted for services rendered to date. Subsequent vouchers for no more than \$25,000 may be submitted at four-month intervals.

Effective March 18, all in-court proceedings in the Southern Division courthouse in **Greenbelt, Maryland**, are suspended. Emergency matters are to be heard in the Northern Division courthouse in **Baltimore**.

## Massachusetts

Per a June 1 order, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts** requires all persons using public entrances of the **Donohue Federal Building**, or present in any public or common space of the courthouse, to wear a mask or face covering. Each agency and court unit may make its own determination as to whether masks or face coverings are required within nonpublic working spaces.

A May 27 order continued all grand jury proceedings, except those scheduled by the U.S. attorney for emergency or essential matters, until at least June 30. Per another May 27 order, all jury trials and trial-specific deadlines in criminal cases scheduled to begin on or before Sept. 8 are continued. Both orders extend previously designated timelines. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All scheduled sessions of the **Central Violations Bureau** are continued until at least June 30, extending the time period specified under previous orders. Magistrate and senior judges may schedule and conduct mediations in civil proceedings by video and phone conference, effective May 7.

In an April 22 order, the court suspended May and June naturalization ceremonies. March and April ceremonies had previously been suspended. The court will grant individual requests for expedited administration of the oath of citizenship upon demonstration of sufficient cause.

Under a May 8 amended order, the court established procedures for federal prisoners who may be vulnerable to the coronavirus, whether due to age, medical condition or otherwise, and who may therefore be appropriate candidates for early release under 18 U.S.C.A. § 3582(c)(1). Among other directives, the court ordered the **U.S. Probation Office** to disclose presentence reports to the **Federal Public Defender Office** to facilitate eligibility determinations.

Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys and service providers are indefinitely permitted to submit interim vouchers for services provided and expenses incurred. The vouchers must be no less than \$250 and may not be submitted for time periods shorter than two months. Vouchers for court reporters or interpreters may be submitted regardless of the dollar amount.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court has authorized judges to use video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or phone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

The public may access criminal and civil phone and video conference hearings through an automated sign-up tool on the court's website. The clerk's office and U.S. Probation Office public counters remain closed. Filings may be placed in public filing boxes located in each courthouse's lobby during business hours.

## Michigan

The **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan** closed the **Theodore Levin United States Courthouse** in Detroit on March 25 after two court security officers tested positive for COVID-19. Eight more officers subsequently exhibited symptoms of the virus. The officers were in the building between March 12 and 21. The courthouse remains closed indefinitely for deep cleaning.

To reduce the population density in detention facilities and federal prisons, the court issued a March 26 order establishing new procedures for motions to delay or extend dates for defendants to self-report to prison, as well as motions to review detention orders. Counsel are directed to confer on the relief requested. If an agreement is reached, counsel for the defendant must submit a stipulation to the assigned judge in lieu of a motion. If a motion is necessary, the government must respond within 72 hours. The motion will be decided on the papers.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court has authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Per an April 10 order, when the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure require a defendant's consent to be in writing, the defendant may sign a document electronically if obtaining an actual signature is impracticable given health and safety concerns. In the

alternative, either defense counsel or the presiding judge may sign on the defendant's behalf if, after consultation with counsel, the defendant consents.

Under an April 2 order, no pro se filings may be made in person but must be mailed to the clerk's office.

In a March 13 order, the court postponed all in-court civil and criminal matters, including grand jury proceedings, until further notice. Misdemeanor ticket calls are also postponed. Questions concerning filing deadlines should be directed to the assigned judge. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings, and the issuance of search warrants will continue to take place. Initial appearances will be held at the Detroit holding court, per a March 16 order.

All court facilities for the **U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan** returned to normal public access May 18. Judges may continue to conduct proceedings via video or audio conference at their discretion. Members of the public can observe remote proceedings by contacting the court.

As posted at the entrance to each courthouse, persons who are sick; who are experiencing fever, cough or shortness of breath; or who have had contact with a confirmed COVID-19-positive person within the past 14 days should not enter the building.

The District Court continues to "make liberal use of non-traditional work strategies," including staggering of work hours or telework. The court also recommends use of appropriate face coverings.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court entered an April 10 order authorizing judges to use video and phone conferencing for criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

## Minnesota

In a May 15 order, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota** continued until July 5 criminal proceedings in which a defendant declines to consent to the use of video or phone conferencing. All existing pretrial deadlines in such cases will remain in place and any resulting continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Only those proceedings outlined in the court's March 30 order in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act may be conducted remotely. Where appropriate, the presiding judge may enter orders in individual cases to extend deadlines and exclude time from the Speedy Trial Act, even when proceedings are held by video conference or telephone, to address delays attributable to COVID-19.

All criminal and civil jury trials, trial-specific deadlines and **Central Violations Bureau** hearings are continued through July 5, extending the timelines given under previous orders. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All civil hearings that cannot be conducted using phone or video conferencing are continued through July 5, extending the timelines given under previous orders. Personal service of process by the U.S. Marshals Service under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(c) 3 or 28 U.S.C.A. § 1915(d) continues to be suspended, effective March 23 through July 5. The time for service under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m) is tolled.

The court's continuity-of-operations plan remains in effect through July 5. The clerk's office intake desks remain closed to the public. Assistance is available by phone, email and online chat.

In-person attorney admission ceremonies are continued through July 5, extending the timelines given under previous orders. The court will start to hold attorney admission ceremonies via video conference in June. Attorneys who must be admitted on an emergency basis should contact the clerk's office for assistance.

Effective May 15, any person, including vendors, contractors, litigants, attorneys and members of the public, entering a federal courthouse must wear a mask or face covering. Individuals who do not have a face mask will be provided one. The order does not apply to those under the age of 2, those who have trouble breathing, or those who cannot use a mask or face covering without assistance.

Masks or face coverings need not be worn in private work areas or in a courtroom if appropriate social distancing can be maintained. Persons entering the **Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building** and U.S. courthouse and customhouse in Duluth to conduct business with the U.S. Postal service should follow current U.S. postal service guidelines regarding face coverings.

An April 10 order authorizing Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys to submit interim vouchers without seeking court approval for amounts in excess of \$1,000 remains in effect. Vouchers may be submitted no more than once per month per case.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the court issued a March 30 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

According to a March 31 order, the press and public may attend public court proceedings remotely by telephone conference. Dial-in instructions can be found on PACER or by contacting the presiding judge's chambers.

Under an April 3 order, when additional information is requested by the court regarding a motion to reconsider detention, **U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services** will investigate new information, reassess whether alternatives to detention exist and forward a supplemental report to the attorneys of record.

Effective April 22, as an alternative to the standard criminal sentencing process under Local Rule 83.10, a presentence report may be initiated before the entry of a guilty plea or establishment of guilt when the parties and the court agree that a consolidated guilty plea and sentencing process would be helpful to resolve a criminal matter.

Per a May 8 order, any criminal case document requiring a defendant's signature may be signed electronically. When a judge finds obtaining a defendant's signature is "impracticable," any document may be signed by defense counsel or the presiding judge on the defendant's behalf if the defendant consents after consultation with counsel.

Under another May 8 order, the court extended by 60 days the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings for all seizures that occurred between Feb. 3 and April 30.

For all property seizures by state or local law enforcement agencies that occurred between Jan. 3 and April 30, the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv) to begin administrative forfeiture proceedings was also extended 60 days.

The 90-day deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(3)(A) for filing a civil forfeiture complaint, or for including an asset in a criminal indictment, is extended to 150 days after receipt of a timely administrative claim between Feb. 3 and April 30.

If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before March 31, the deadline for sending required notice is extended for 60 days.

## Mississippi

Under a March 31 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi** temporarily suspended Local Uniform Civil Rule 83.1(a)(1)(C) so that attorneys seeking admission to the court may be admitted by video or telephone conference.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the court issued an April 2 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Under a March 13 order, the court continued all in-person civil and criminal proceedings unless conducted by video or telephone conference. The United States Attorney and Federal Defender offices should cooperate and use their discretion to prioritize proceedings and continue nonessential proceedings wherever possible.

Petty offense hearings scheduled for April and May will be continued until June and July. Public access to courthouses will be limited.

Under a May 29 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi** continued all civil and criminal jury trials and related deadlines through June 30, extending the time period specified in previous orders. The duration of the continuances remains excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All other in-court hearings and proceedings may go forward at the presiding judge's discretion, including proceedings that involve the attendance of a detainee. Judges and counsel are still encouraged to use videoconferencing and phone conferencing to the extent possible to avoid unnecessary disruption in cases.

Per orders in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, judges remain authorized to use video and phone conferencing for criminal matters including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's written consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's written consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Grand juries may continue to meet. Grand jurors must appear voluntarily and indicate such on the record. The U.S. attorney will implement protocols to protect the health of the grand jurors and those who may come in contact with them. Each grand jury session will be limited to one half day. Any deviation from such conditions requires notice and approval by the chief judge.

Anyone entering the courthouse for judicial proceedings must wear masks while in any common area of the courthouse and in the courtroom unless speaking during the proceeding. Counsel are instructed to bring their own masks and advise those attending to bring masks. Additional masks will be made available if necessary.

Courtrooms will be cleaned after each court session. Participants in hearings and spectators must observe social distancing.

Under an April 7 order, the court temporarily suspended Local Uniform Civil Rule 83.1(a)(1)(C) so that attorneys seeking admission to the court may be admitted by video or telephone conference.

An April 8 order appointed the **Office of the Federal Public Defender** to represent those raising potential claims for compassionate release under Section 603 of the 2018 First Step Act. The **U.S. Probation Office** and the clerk's office are authorized to disclose presentence investigation reports, statements of reasons, and judgments to defense counsel as they pertain to a defendant's eligibility for compassionate release.

## Missouri

Under a May 29 order, courthouses in the **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri** remain open by appointment only. As previously ordered, members of the public are restricted to courthouse main lobbies. Only those who have permission from a judge or building head, or who are attending scheduled proceedings, may go beyond the lobby.

All persons admitted beyond the lobby must follow posted social distancing and personal protection requirements. Those admitted must wear a mask or face covering when in any common area of the **Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse** and are "strongly encouraged" to do so when in any common area of the **Rush Hudson Limbaugh Sr. Courthouse**.

Per another May 29 order, all civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to begin on or before July 5 are continued, extending the time period previously specified. The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All proceedings are to be conducted by means other than in-person meetings wherever possible by law, unless otherwise directed by the presiding judge. There will be no in-person civil appearances until further order. Only essential criminal proceedings will go forward.

Findings made in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act per a March 30 order remain in place. Judges are authorized to use video and phone conferencing for criminal matters including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

An April 29 order establishing procedures for combined plea and sentencing hearings remains in effect. As an alternative to the standard criminal sentencing process, a presentence report may be initiated before the entry of a guilty plea or establishment of guilt when the parties have finalized a plea agreement and the parties and the court agree that a consolidated guilty plea and sentencing process would be helpful.

Under the alternative process, the **United States Probation Office** will prepare a pre-plea presentence investigation and report that compiles and summarizes the information required under Rule 32 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

All requirements related to in-person participation in Alternative Dispute Resolution remain suspended, pending further order. ADR proceedings may take place by any remote means agreed upon by the parties. Parties needing additional scheduling relief should make a motion to the court.



Pro se litigants may submit filings via email or in drop boxes located in courthouse lobbies. Filings must comply with local rules. The public and media may access criminal proceedings by contacting the court pursuant to a notice on the court's website.

Naturalization ceremonies, previously postponed indefinitely, will be held throughout June in the main lobby of the Eagleton courthouse. Ceremonies will be short and will be limited to 10 people each. Personal protective equipment is required.

Per an April 22 order, the court extended by 60 days the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings for all federal seizures set to occur between Feb. 3 and May 3.

For all property seizures by state or local law enforcement agencies set to occur between Jan. 3 and May 3, the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv) to begin administrative forfeiture proceedings is also extended 60 days.

If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before April 22, the deadline for sending the required notice is extended for 60 days.

The **Federal Records Center in Lenexa, Kansas**, and the **National Archives** are closed until further notice. Only emergency requests will be addressed. Emergency requests are those that, if not granted, would "be detrimental to ongoing federal activities and would result in public harm." All other requests submitted will be held until the return to normal operations.

Under an April 20 order, the **U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri** continued all in-person proceedings scheduled through May 17. All civil and criminal jury trials and grand jury proceedings scheduled through July 6 are continued. The move extends the timelines specified under an earlier order.

The duration of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A) through July 17. The time period for returning an indictment under 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(b) is extended to July 10. Civil case-specific deadlines remain in place, unless otherwise ordered.

All nonemergency criminal and civil hearings are continued through May 17. However, individual judges may continue to hold hearings, conferences and bench trials at their discretion. Essential criminal matters such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings and the issuance of warrants will proceed.

Effective April 6, the court closed its public counters. The clerk's office remains open to assist by phone and email. Probation and pretrial services are closed the public. Courthouse lobbies remain open.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the court issued a March 30 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent after consultation with counsel, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

## Montana

The **U.S. District Court for the District of Montana** has extended its courthouse closures to the public through May 29.

All jury trials and associated final pretrial conferences through May 29 are vacated; no other deadlines are affected.

The grand jury that was empaneled at **Missoula, Montana**, on Sept. 25, 2019, will convene at 9 a.m. on May 6. Grand jurors should report to the federal courthouse nearest to their homes, where they may convene remotely via videoconference. All other grand jury proceedings scheduled through May 29 are vacated, unless otherwise ordered by the chief judge.

Presiding judges in criminal cases are encouraged to evaluate whether any delay resulting from the order should be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 316(h)(7)(A).

Individual judges may continue to hold nonjury proceedings such as bench trials, in-person hearings, settlement conferences, sentencing hearings, and other court matters as they deem appropriate, on a case-by-case basis.

Counsel may seek to continue matters by motion. In criminal matters, counsel does not need to file a motion for leave to appear remotely for an initial appearance, arraignment, detention hearing, or change-of-plea hearing. Counsel must file a motion for leave if seeking to appear remotely for an uncontested revocation or sentencing proceeding. Counsel is expected to appear in person for contested revocation or sentencing proceedings, absent leave of court in extraordinary circumstances.

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act enacted March 27, the court has authorized, in certain criminal matters, the use of video teleconferencing or telephone conferencing if video teleconferencing is not reasonably available.

All documents may be signed electronically. Attorney-client privilege is not waived by the presence of third parties or the existence of monitoring while using electronic communication.

Non-case-specific hearings and events are canceled through May 29.

All group tours and visits, naturalization ceremonies and attorney admission ceremonies scheduled through May 29 are canceled.

The court clerk will continue to provide essential court services, receive mail and process payments remotely.

## Nebraska

Effective April 6, **Chief Justice John M. Gerrard** approved the closing of public counters for the **U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska**. The clerk's office remains open to assist by telephone. A drop box is available outside the courthouse.

The court extended its earlier continuances to all proceedings set to begin on or before June 1. The duration of continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

The 30-day time period for filing an indictment or information is tolled as to any defendant during the time period of the continuances pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(b).

Case-by-case exceptions to the continuances extended by this order may be ordered for nonjury proceedings at the discretion of the court.

On March 30, the court issued an order under the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act enacted on March 27. The order allows judges, with the defendant's consent, to use video or telephone conferencing for detention hearings, initial appearances, misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, and some juvenile proceedings.

## Nevada

Effective March 30, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada** authorized the use of videoconferencing, or telephone conferencing if video is not reasonably available, for certain criminal proceedings as provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, H.R. 748, Public Law No. 116-136.

All documents and signatures required from any party will be performed electronically.

On April 29, the court amended its earlier order. The clerk's office remains closed to the public. This does not affect filings, which can be processed electronically and via U.S. mail, email, or delivery. Drop boxes are available at the courthouse from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on business days.

Effective May 18, filings sent by mail will be deemed filed on the date received by the clerk's office.

All deadlines remain in full effect, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge.

The court plans to incrementally resume in-person court appearances "as appropriate based on recommended health guidelines."

## New Hampshire

Effective April 15, the **U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire** has extended the deadlines in its previous orders to June 1.

All civil and criminal hearings scheduled to begin before June 1 are continued. All final pretrial conferences associated with those trials are also continued. The duration of continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All grand jury proceedings scheduled before May 1 are continued.

The 30-day time period for filing an indictment or information is tolled as to each defendant until the next date on which the grand jury convenes.

All civil hearings and conferences scheduled to occur after March 20 remain as scheduled and will be conducted by teleconference or videoconference.

All court-sponsored or court-conducted mediations scheduled before June 1 are continued. All petty offense **Central Violations Bureau** hearings are continued to July 13.

Court-hosted naturalization events scheduled before June 1 are canceled as are all non-case-related events.

The courthouse and clerk's office remain closed to the public. Documents may be filed electronically or in paper by using the court's outside filing depository.

On March 30, the court authorized the use of videoconferencing or teleconferencing for certain criminal matters under the CARES Act. On April 15, the court extended the procedural orders for in-court hearings and videoconference and telephonic hearings to June 1.

## New Jersey

On April 17, the **U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey** extended the dates of its earlier orders.

All civil and criminal jury selections and jury trials scheduled to begin through May 31 are continued. Jury trials may not be scheduled before May 31.

The time period of March 16 through May 31 will be "excluded time" under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7) (A). Effective April 17, the time limits established by the Interstate Agreement on Detainers, 18 U.S.C.A. app. 2, § 2 (art. III) will also be excluded time.

All **Central Violations Bureau** proceedings between March 16 and May 31 are continued. No new grand juries will be empaneled from March 16 to May 31.

All filing and discovery deadlines in civil matters that currently fall between March 25 and April 30 remain unchanged. All filing and discovery deadlines in civil matters that fall between May 1 and May 31 are extended by 30 days, unless the presiding judge directs otherwise. This directive does not apply to scheduled conferences. Statutes of limitation are not tolled or extended.

On April 17, the court ordered that immigration detainees seeking immediate release due to the COVID-19 pandemic must file their habeas petitions individually, without co-petitioners. Should the cases be filed with multiple petitioners, the clerk will sever the petitioners after the first named petitioner and file all documents in the originally opened case into separate individual actions with one named petitioner, each with their own civil action number. When a multi-petitioner case is severed, each petitioner will be responsible for paying the applicable filing fee. This does not apply to multi-petitioner cases opened before April 17, but a judicial officer may order severance of the petitioners in those cases.

On April 27, the court established instructions for the public to remotely attend public hearings, available on its website.

On March 30, the court authorized the use of videoconferencing or teleconferencing in certain criminal matters under the CARES Act.

## New Mexico

On April 2, the **U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico** released a temporary administrative procedures manual, a handbook of modified procedures for filing, payments, access and related matters due to the exigent circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Effective through May 29, only those persons with official court business may enter the courthouses and probation offices. Those persons include court employees and contractors, couriers, package and postal workers, sureties or individuals posting bond, persons reporting for grand jury duty, parties/litigants, counsel of record, investigators or employees of counsel, law enforcement officers and witnesses participating in hearings, contract court interpreters, individuals under supervision of the **U.S. Probation Office**, and others specifically authorized by a presiding judge.

The clerk's offices and probation offices are closed to public entry. The clerk's offices are not deemed "inaccessible" for purposes of computing filing deadlines under Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(a)(3) or Fed. R. Crim. P. 45(a)(3) and are deemed "open" for the purposes of Fed. R. Civ. P. 77(c).

All civil and criminal trials scheduled to begin through May 29 are continued. Grand jury proceedings may resume at the discretion of the **U.S. attorney's office** beginning May 4.

The period of court-ordered suspension of criminal trials is excluded from the computation of time under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Personal service of process effected by the **U.S. Marshals Service** is suspended through May 29. Time is also tolled through May 29 for the U.S. Marshals Service.

Naturalization ceremonies scheduled through May 29 are canceled as are public and bar-related functions.

The court has authorized video and teleconferencing for certain matters.

## New York

The **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York** on April 20 continued all civil and criminal jury trials. Jury trials are suspended until further order of the court.

Compliance with all trial-specific deadlines in civil and criminal cases is at the discretion of the presiding judge. Existing grand juries will continue in operation. The time period from April 27 to June 15 is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Criminal matters before magistrate judges, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings, and the issuance of search warrants, will take place in ordinary course using remote procedures.

The United States courthouses in **Manhattan, Poughkeepsie** and **White Plains** remain open for business, but subject to limitations, with most staff working remotely. The **Thurgood Marshall Courthouse** in Manhattan is closed for Southern District of New York operations, and is subject to the order of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for appellate operations.

Video teleconferencing or telephone conferencing is allowed in certain criminal procedures, effective March 30.

Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys and their service providers may submit interim vouchers for payment of fees and expenses without filing a motion. Initial vouchers may be submitted no sooner than four months after the date of appointment/for services rendered to date. Subsequent interim vouchers may be submitted at three-month intervals from the date of the last previously submitted interim or when the then-current voucher amount is greater than \$5,000.

The **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York** on April 21 modified its earlier orders. The court remains open in **Brooklyn** and **Central Islip** with limited operations. All civil and criminal petit jury selections and jury trials scheduled to begin before June 15 are continued, as are all grand jury selections.

Compliance with all trial-specific deadlines in civil and criminal cases is at the discretion of assigned judges.

The time period of April 27 to June 15 is excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161.

Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys may submit interim vouchers for services provided and expenses incurred up to and including March 13. Vouchers may also be submitted for services provided and expenses incurred after March 13 on an interim basis; these vouchers, however, may not be submitted for periods of time shorter than two months. No interim voucher may be submitted in an amount less than \$500. Vouchers for court reporters and interpreters may be submitted regardless of the dollar amount.

On May 6, the court continued all petty offense proceedings scheduled before June 15.

On April 2, citing continuous applications for release of defendants detained at the **Metropolitan Detention Center Brooklyn**, the **Metropolitan Correctional Center New York**, and the **Queens Detention Facility**, the court ordered the wardens of those facilities to provide written, twice weekly status reports. The reports will address the incidence of COVID-19 infections and measures undertaken to mitigate the spread. The court expressed a need for "current, consistent, and accurate information to assess the common issue underlying these applications."

**Chief Judge Roslynn R. Mauskopf** on March 30 issued an order pursuant to § 15002(b)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, authorizing judges with the consent of the defendant, or juvenile after consultation with counsel, to use video conferencing or telephone conferencing for certain criminal procedures effective for 90 days.

On April 29, the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York** revised its earlier order and extended continuances for civil and criminal jury selections and jury trials through May 15. The time period of the continuances for criminal trials will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Criminal matters before magistrate judges, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings (and appeals to district judges from detention orders), and the issuance of search orders will continue to take place in the ordinary course.

All mass public gatherings other than court proceedings are suspended at all courthouses and federal buildings in the district. This includes group tours and visits, moot courts and mock trials, bar group meetings, seminars, and naturalization ceremonies.

On April 3, the court authorized the use of video teleconferencing or telephone conferencing in the criminal procedures specifically enumerated in § 15002(b)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

Criminal Justice Act panel members or service providers may submit interim vouchers for services provided and expenses incurred up to and including March 13 on an interim basis. Vouchers may not be submitted for periods of time shorter than two months or for an amount less than \$250. Vouchers for court reporters or interpreters may be submitted regardless of the dollar amount.

Per an April 29 order, the court extended by 60 days the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings for all seizures set to occur between February 3 and April 28. The 90-day deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(3)(A) for filing a civil forfeiture complaint, or the inclusion of an asset in a criminal indictment, after receipt of a timely administrative claim between February 3 and April 28 is extended to 150 days. If a 30-day extension of any administrative notice deadline under 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(B) was executed on or before March 31, the deadline for sending the required notice is extended for 60 days.

The **U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York** on May 13 issued an expansive order revising many of its earlier orders.

The following people may not enter any courthouse in the district: people not wearing a mask or face covering; those asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency; people diagnosed with COVID-19 or those not fully recovered; anyone who has been in contact in the past 14 days with a person diagnosed with COVID-19; or people with fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

All courthouse visitors must wear a mask or face covering.

All criminal and jury trials scheduled to begin through June 15 are continued.

The duration of any continuance remains excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All grand jury selections are continued until June 15.

Under a March 30 order, pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court authorized the use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent after consultation with counsel.

Grand jury returns may take place by video teleconference under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6.

No naturalization proceedings will be conducted until June 15.

Criminal Justice Act Panel attorneys may submit interim vouchers for compensation without prior court approval as long as the amount exceeds \$500 and is not submitted within two months of a prior interim voucher in the same criminal matter.

Courthouses remain open, subject to limitations. Filings will continue to be processed in civil and criminal cases via the CM/ECF electronic system and by mail. Paper documents may be received in the drop box located inside the courthouse.

## North Carolina

The **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina** on April 6 and 8 issued judicial preference orders for two judges, requesting that in order to make the necessary arrangements for videoconferencing or teleconferencing, the United States should make requests for initial appearances no later than noon the day before the initial appearance.

The court will allow representatives of the **Federal Public Defender's Office** or defense counsel who have entered a notice of appearance to speak with a defendant by the videoconferencing or teleconference system "for a reasonable period of time before the defendant's initial appearance is scheduled to begin." The courtroom will be closed to the public during this time and the courtroom recording technology will be disabled.

Beginning April 22, all intake counters will be open to the public from 1-3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A file drop box is located at the courthouses in **Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, and Wilmington**.

The court previously authorized the use of videoconferencing, or telephone conferencing if video is not reasonably available, for all events listed in § 15002(b)(1)(A)-(J) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, H.R. 748, Public Law No. 116-136, with the consent of the defendant or juvenile after consultation with counsel.

Felony pleas or sentencing may also be conducted by video or telephone conferencing.

Effective March 18, the District Court ordered all civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to begin before May 1 continued. All other hearings, conferences and proceedings are subject to the discretion of the presiding judge.

The time period of the continuances will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 161(h)(7)(A).

Grand jury matters will proceed, as will initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings and the issuance of warrants.

The **U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina** revised an earlier order regarding visitor restrictions. Effective April 28, only persons with official business are permitted to enter the courthouse. A drop box is available to members of the public between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

On April 28, the court ordered that it remains open for official business. Deadlines are not extended and remain in effect. Civil jury trials scheduled to begin before June 8 are continued. All criminal cases, including jury trials, are continued to a date on or after June 8.

The time period of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Judges may conduct criminal proceedings, including felony change of plea hearings and sentencings through video or telephone conferencing under the authority of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, H.R. 748, Public Law No. 116-136.

All naturalization ceremonies scheduled to begin before June 8 are continued.

Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys and service providers may submit interim vouchers for services provided and expenses incurred. The initial voucher may be submitted no sooner than four months after the date of appointment or for services rendered to date. Subsequent interim vouchers may be submitted when the current interim voucher amount is greater than \$4,000 or at intervals of four months after the last voucher was submitted.

On May 13, the court ordered that as conditions permit, judges may begin to conduct certain civil and criminal proceedings in open court, provided that certain precautions are taken.

Effective April 1, the **U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina** revised its earlier order and has ordered all criminal jury trials scheduled to begin through June 1 continued.

The time period of the continuances will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Grand juries will sit for one day during a session until further notice.

All non-case-specific events scheduled before June 1 are canceled.

## North Dakota

Under a May 7 order, the **U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota** extended by 60 days the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(i) to begin administrative property forfeiture proceedings for all seizures that occurred between Feb. 3 and April 30.

For all property seizures by state or local law enforcement agencies that occurred between Feb. 3 and April 30, the deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv) to begin administrative forfeiture proceedings is also extended 60 days.

The deadline established by 18 U.S.C.A. § 983(a)(3)(A) for filing a civil forfeiture complaint, or the inclusion of an asset in a criminal indictment, after receipt of a timely administrative claim between Feb. 3 and April 30 is extended 150 days from the current deadline.

On May 12, the court expanded its earlier orders. Visitor restrictions are in place. All jury trials scheduled through July 3 are continued. All trial-specific deadlines in criminal cases are continued, but trial-specific deadlines in civil cases remain.



## Northern Mariana Islands

Effective May 18, the **U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands** opened its courthouse to court employees, tenants of the building, and individuals appearing for scheduled in-person court proceedings, or for confirmed appointments with judges, the Office of Pretrial and Probation or other tenants of the building. The building will be open from 8 a.m. until noon Monday through Friday.

All civil and criminal jury selections and jury trials scheduled before June 8 are continued. All regularly scheduled grand jury proceedings are continued to June 15. To the extent possible, all civil, criminal and bankruptcy hearings will be conducted by telephone or videoconference. Sentencing and revocation hearings may be scheduled for in-person appearances at the courthouse. Initial appearances, arraignments, and detention hearings will be conducted by videoconference with the defendant's consent.

The time period of the continuances will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 161(h)(7)(A). Statutes of limitations, statutory deadlines and other required deadlines will not be tolled or excluded unless specifically ordered by the court.

All naturalization ceremonies, attorney admissions and other non-case-related proceedings are postponed. The review and execution of warrants and complaints will be conducted remotely as arranged with the individual judge.

All courthouse visitors must wear a face mask, sanitize hands upon entering, and exercise social distancing.

## Ohio

The **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio** on May 22 ordered all courthouses to remain closed to the public through July 31. All mass public gatherings are suspended. The use of face masks or cloth face coverings is required for all individuals in a courthouse. Physical distancing will be enforced.

Civil jury trials will commence at a future date to be announced, but not before August. The use of video and teleconference in civil proceedings will continue. In-person court proceedings, if necessary, will be limited to 10 people.

Criminal jury trials will begin at a future date to be announced, but not before August. The use of video and teleconference will continue. The time period of continuances will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 161(h)(7)(A). In-person court proceedings will be limited to 10 people.

The use of video and teleconference for change-of-plea hearings will continue. Grand jury proceedings will proceed if absolutely necessary and with the approval of the chief judge. All in-person reentry court sessions will be conducted by video or teleconference. All petty offense proceedings are suspended through July 31.

The clerk's office intake windows remain closed. Electronic filings may be made.

The **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio** reopened the **Cincinnati**, **Columbus** and **Dayton** courthouses June 1 and has adopted a reconstitution plan. The court will be open for some on-site proceedings and some court personnel will begin to work on-site.

The court will extend Section 15000(b)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act to allow the option for videoconference hearings in certain specified criminal proceedings, with the defendant's consent.

The Probation and Pretrial Services Offices will begin to resume field operations. All visitors must wear facial coverings and will be subject to temperature screenings. Social distancing is mandatory.

The court will not hold jury proceedings before June 22.

## Oklahoma

The **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma** on April 30 ordered grand jury proceedings to begin June 9, subject to health screening, social distancing and personal protective measures.

Jury trials and naturalization proceedings are continued through July 6. The time period of continuances will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

On May 18, the court said courthouse entrants must wear a face covering or mask.

On May 28, the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma** continued all civil hearings and trials scheduled on or before June 30. All other scheduling order deadlines remain in effect.

Criminal hearings and trials scheduled on or before June 30 are continued. At the discretion of the judge in each case, felony sentencing and change-of-plea hearings may be held on-site or by video with the defendant's consent. Counsel should contact the courtroom deputy if the defendant consents to a video hearing. The time period of continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Settlement conferences scheduled on or before June 30 are continued. Grand jury proceedings will resume June 1. Naturalization ceremonies are canceled through June 30.

All courthouse visitors are required to wear masks while on the third or fourth floor of the **Page Belcher Building**. Visitors who do not have a mask will be provided one.

The **U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma** on May 28 ordered all visitors to wear face coverings while in the courthouses.

The clerk's office remains open to the public. Nonelectronic documents and payments may be placed in the clerk's drop box.

Naturalization ceremonies on June 26 are canceled. Civil and criminal jury trials on the June docket are continued. The presiding judge will address trial-related deadlines. The time period of continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

In-person proceedings for persons detained at the **Grady County Law Enforcement Center** are suspended until June 22.

## Oregon

On May 21, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon** continued all civil and criminal jury selections and jury trials, as well as all grand jury proceedings scheduled to begin before July 15. All other civil and criminal matters scheduled for an in-court appearance before July 15, including any associated deadlines, are continued, unless all parties and the judge agree to resolve the matters without oral argument, or via telephone or video conferencing.

The time period of the continuances will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

The clerk's office opened to the public June 1 but will not accept cash payments. Filings will continue to be accepted electronically or by email, mail or drop boxes. All courthouse entrants must wear a face covering or mask.

## Pennsylvania

The **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania** on May 29 continued all civil and criminal jury selections and jury trials, as well as grand jury selections scheduled to begin on or before Aug. 31. Impaneled grand juries will not meet through June 30. All existing grand juries will remain in session, and any subpoenas for ongoing and new investigations are enforceable.

The time period of May 31 through Aug. 31 is excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A) for all criminal cases affected by the trial continuance. The deadlines for filing an indictment or information under 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(b) and (d)(1) remain continued through June 30.

All **Central Violations Bureau** proceedings scheduled to occur before June 30 are continued, as are all arbitration hearings under Local Civil Rule 53.2. All public gatherings, other than court proceedings, are suspended.

On March 30, the **U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania** authorized the use of video or telephone conferencing for certain criminal matters.

The court also authorized the use of electronic signatures.

All hearings and proceedings in all civil and criminal matters scheduled within 60 days before March 13 that involve the physical presence of counsel or any party or individual are continued.

The time period of March 16 through April 30 will be "excluded time" under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 161(h)(7)(A).

Effective March 18, sitting grand juries are authorized to continue to meet, but no new grand juries will be empaneled from March 13 to April 30.

Under a supplemental order issued March 23, the courthouse in Harrisburg is closed because someone who tested positive for COVID-19 was physically present in the courthouse.

All proceedings have been transferred to the Williamsport or Scranton courthouses.

Effective March 13, the **U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania** has continued all civil and criminal jury selections and jury trials scheduled to begin before April 27.

All deadlines or scheduling orders in all civil and criminal cases remain in effect unless modified by the court.

March 13 through April 27 will be "excluded time" under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 161(h)(7)(A).

The court on March 30 authorized the use of video or telephone conferencing for certain criminal matters.

The court revised its earlier order and suspended all grand jury sessions through April 17.

### **Puerto Rico**

The **U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico** has continued all jury trials scheduled to begin through May 29.

The time period of the continuances will be excluded by the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 161(h)(7)(A).

The court has authorized the use of video or telephone conferencing for certain criminal proceedings, effective March 31.

All eviction proceedings are stayed until at least May 30.

### **Rhode Island**

Effective March 20, **the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island** has closed the U.S. courthouse building at 1 Exchange Terrace and the court-occupied portion of the John O. Pastore building.

All in-person civil matters will be canceled by the presiding judge's case manager and, where possible, arrange telephonic hearings.

All grand jury proceedings and all ongoing criminal hearings will be continued "unless the defendant's liberty interests are involved."

All criminal jury trials are continued.

The time period of the continuances will be excluded by the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 161(h)(7)(A).

The District Court has ordered all criminal hearings and proceedings under the Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act to take place telephonically.

Effective April 7, the government's response to any emergency motion citing the COVID-19 pandemic as grounds for the relief sought is due five days after the service of the motion. Any reply is due two days after the service of any response.

### **South Carolina**

Effective March 16, **the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina** has continued all civil and criminal jury selections, jury trials, and roster meetings scheduled to begin through May 8.

All grand jury proceedings scheduled through May 8 are continued.

In all civil cases, all deadlines, whether set by court or by the rules of civil procedure or local rules, are extended by 21 days from the current deadline set. The order does not toll any applicable statutes of limitation.

All other civil and criminal matters scheduled for an in-court appearance through May 8, including any associated deadlines, are continued, unless all parties and the judge agree to telecommunications conferencing to resolve the matter.

The time period of the continuances will be excluded by the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 161(h)(7)(A).

Effective April 2, the court has authorized the use of video or telephone conferencing for certain criminal proceedings under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. The proceedings include detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent, if the presiding judge concludes that the proceeding cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Pro se litigants can email documents to the court, subject to certain guidelines.

## South Dakota

Effective March 17, the **U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota** has continued all civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to begin on or before April 24.

The time period of the continuances will be excluded by the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 161(h)(7)(A).

Nonjury proceedings, such as bench trials and hearings, will proceed as scheduled unless continued, on a case-by-case basis, by the presiding judge.

All grand jury proceedings between March 17 and April 24 are continued.

The 30-day time period for filing an indictment or an information is tolled as to each defendant.

## Tennessee

All civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to begin from March 16 through April 24 in the **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee** are continued effective March 16.

The time period of the continuances will be excluded by the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 161(h)(7)(A).

All grand jury proceedings in Greeneville and Chattanooga are suspended through April 24. The U.S. attorney is permitted to continue to utilize the grand jury in Knoxville and future scheduling of the Knoxville grand jury is not affected.

All civil trials scheduled to begin without a jury will be handled at the discretion of the presiding judge.

On April 1, the court extended the suspension of all grand jury proceedings to April 30.

The court has also authorized the use of video and telephone conferencing for certain circumstances, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

The **U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee** issued a new order April 2, clarifying that all deadlines previously established in both civil and criminal cases remain in effect.

On March 31, the court also authorized the use of video and telephone conferencing for certain criminal procedures, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing, with a defendant's consent.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent, if the presiding judge concludes that the plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

All grand jury proceedings scheduled to take place between March 17 and April 30 are continued. All related deadlines are suspended and tolled for all purposes, including the statute of limitations, from March 17 through April 30.

Attorney admissions ceremonies are continued through April 30.

In the **U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee**, all civil proceedings are continued until after April 17. All criminal proceedings other than initial appearances, arraignments, bond and detention hearings, and other in-person criminal proceedings are continued until after April 17.

Civil and criminal jury trials through April 17 are continued.

The time period of the continuances is excluded by the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

## Texas

Effective March 20, the **U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas** has closed all courts.

All settings in any civil or criminal matter scheduled before May 1 are canceled, with the exception of pleas, sentencing, criminal matters before magistrate judges and the issuance of warrants.

All **Central Violations Bureau** proceedings between March 23 and May 1 are continued.

All deadlines in a scheduling order, other than a trial date, remain in effect unless modified by the assigned judge.

The time period of the continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

The court on March 30 authorized the use of video or telephone conferencing for criminal matters including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and felony and misdemeanor pleas and sentencing.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used with the defendant's consent if the presiding judge concludes that a plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Effective March 24, the court also continued until after May 1 all sentencings in which the presentencing report calculates the bottom of the guidelines range at 21 months' imprisonment or more. If a defendant objects, the sentencing can proceed as originally scheduled. Parties may request continuances for other sentencing proceedings.

All jury trials scheduled to begin through May 1 are continued in the **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas**. The continuances do not affect any pending deadlines other than the trial dates.

The time period of the continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All grand jury proceedings through May 1 are continued.

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court on March 30 authorized the use of video or teleconferencing in certain matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent, if the presiding judge concludes that the proceeding cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

Pro se litigants may mail, email, or fax their legal pleadings.

Effective March 13, all civil and criminal bench and jury trials in the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas** scheduled to begin through May 1 are continued. This continuance does not affect any pending deadlines other than trial dates.

The time period of the continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All grand jury proceedings through May 1 are continued. All deadlines are suspended and tolled for all purposes, including the statute of limitations, through May 1.

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court has authorized the use of video and telephone conferencing for certain criminal proceedings including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent, if the presiding judge concludes that the proceeding cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

The court on April 2 extended the time to self-report to a bureau of prisons facility for nonviolent offenders. They now have 60 days from their current voluntary surrender date.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas** on March 30 authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and felony and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used with the defendant's consent if the presiding judge concludes that a plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

The court has also authorized the use of electronic signatures in some instances.

Effective March 18, the **Brownsville Division** of the **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas** has continued all criminal and civil jury trials scheduled to begin through May 1. The continuances do not affect any deadlines other than the jury trial dates.

The time period of the continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Unless the parties in a particular case are notified otherwise, guilty plea proceedings scheduled to take place March 23 through May 1 are continued.

The time period of the continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Currently scheduled grand jury sessions through May 1 are continued. Related deadlines are suspended and tolled for all purposes, including the statutes of limitations, through May 1.

Individual judges may continue to hold bench trials, in-person hearings, sentencing proceedings, scheduling conferences, and other court proceedings.

As of March 18, the **Corpus Christi** and **Victoria divisions** of the **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas** have continued all criminal and civil trials scheduled to begin through May 1. The continuances do not affect any deadlines other than the jury trial dates.

The time period of the continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Currently scheduled grand jury sessions through May 1 are continued. Related deadlines are suspended and tolled for all purposes, including the statute of limitations, through May 1.

Individual judges may continue to hold bench trials, in-person hearings, sentencing proceedings, scheduling conferences and other court proceedings.

All criminal and civil jury trials scheduled to begin through May 1 are continued in the **Houston** and **Galveston divisions** of the **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas** effective March 17. The continuances do not affect any deadlines other than the jury trial dates.

The time period of the continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Currently scheduled grand jury sessions through May 1 are continued. Related deadlines are suspended and tolled for all purposes, including the statute of limitations, through May 1.

Individual judges may continue to hold bench trials, in-person hearings, sentencing proceedings, scheduling conferences, and other court proceedings.

Effective March 19, the **Laredo Division** of the **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas** has continued all criminal and civil jury trials scheduled to begin in April, after the regularly scheduled final pretrial conferences are continued.

The time period of the continuances is excluded by the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Grand jury matters will proceed in ordinary course pending further order of the court.



Individual judges may continue to hold bench trials, in-person hearings, sentencing proceedings, scheduling conferences and other court proceedings.

Effective March 20, the **McAllen Division** of the **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas** is screening courthouse visitors for COVID-19.

## Utah

As of March 16, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Utah** has continued all civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to begin before May 1.

All trial-related deadlines in criminal trials scheduled to begin before May 1 are continued.

All grand jury proceedings are suspended through May 1.

The 30-day period for filing an indictment is tolled until the order terminates.

The time period of all continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

The court on March 31 authorized the use of video and telephone conferencing for criminal matters including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and felony and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used with the defendant's consent if the presiding judge concludes that a plea or sentence cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

## Vermont

Effective March 25, the clerks' offices are closed to the public in the **U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont**. All manual filings may be made through a box at the courthouse lobby. Payments may be made by check or money order and mailed or delivered to the box. The courthouse staff will also accept credit card information via telephone. The bankruptcy court will not accept personal checks or credit card payments from debtors when filing a petition.

On March 30, the court revised portions of its March 23 order in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. The court is now authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing to conduct detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, waivers of indictment, arraignments, probation and supervised release revocation hearings, pretrial release revocation hearings, appearances under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 40, misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, and juvenile hearings.

**Chief Judge Geoffrey W. Crawford** said that because felony pleas and felony sentencings cannot be conducted in person without "seriously jeopardizing public health and safety," he was authorizing judges, with defendants' consent, to use video or telephone conferencing in those cases.

In the event of a video hearing, a court reporter will attend and create a record, or the hearing may be recorded. In the event of a telephone hearing, a court reporter will attend by telephone.

Civil hearings remain open to the public and upon request, callers will be given the call-in information for a telephone conference and may listen.

All other hearings remain postponed, unless ordered by the presiding judge. Scheduling orders in place as of March 23 remain in effect. All grand jury proceedings remain postponed until April 23. Civil trials are also still postponed.

The time period of all continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

## Virgin Islands

The **U.S. District Court for the District of the Virgin Islands** on March 20 expanded its March 17 order to allow judicial officers greater teleworking. The court remains open for official business in both the St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John divisions. Judicial officers remain available to conduct court business.

All civil and criminal jury and bench trials through April 16 remain continued. The time period of continuance in criminal trials is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Sitting grand juries are not authorized to meet through April 16 and no new grand juries will be empaneled.

The 30-day time period for filing an indictment will be tolled from March 18 through April 16.

The court will not accept payments of fees, fines or restitution in person. Payments should be mailed to the clerk's office. All bail bonds must be presented in the form of a certified check or money order.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court issued an April 9 order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with the defendant's consent.

Under Section 15002(b)(2)(B) of the Act, the court has ordered that if a district judge in a particular case finds that a felony plea or sentencing cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice, the judge may, with the consent of the defendant, use video or telephone conferencing for the felony plea or sentencing.

## Virginia

On April 15, the **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia** expanded its March 24 order. All civil and criminal in-person proceedings, including all court appearances, trials, hearings, and settlement conferences, scheduled through June 10 are postponed and continued.

This order does not apply to "critical" criminal proceedings: initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, detention hearings and the issuance of warrants. Nor does it apply to instances where a presiding judge, on or after March 16, ordered a proceeding held before June 10 after finding that delay would result in "a manifest injustice." March 16 was the date of an earlier order that continued civil and criminal proceedings scheduled to occur between March 17 and 31.

Grand juries will not meet before June 10.

Nothing in this order postpones or cancels any previously scheduled, or subsequently scheduled, "remote" proceedings scheduled by a presiding judge in any criminal or civil cases, regardless of whether that remote proceeding is a "critical or emergency" proceeding.

This order does not extend any filing deadlines, and any further briefing extensions necessary due to COVID-19 emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the presiding judge.

The period of May 2 through June 10 is excluded from speedy-trial calculations for both the return of an indictment and the commencement of trial under 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

The **Alexandria, Richmond, and Norfolk** courthouses remain open for drop box filings. Electronic means of communication are preferred. Visitor restrictions are in place.

On March 30, the court authorized the use of video conferencing or telephone conferencing for certain criminal proceedings pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. On April 6 the court issued an order describing the difficulties of conducting remote video proceedings with multiple entrants to the courthouse; as such, the court is now working to develop "fully remote proceedings." The court has granted a temporary exception allowing the public and media access to a toll-free telephone line to remotely listen to a live audio-stream of the proceedings.

All in-person criminal, civil and bankruptcy proceedings scheduled on or before May 1 remain continued in the **U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia**.

The time period of the continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All misdemeanor and petty offense dockets on or before May 1 remain continued.

Grand jury proceedings scheduled on or before April 17 remain continued.

On March 30, the court authorized the use of video teleconferencing or telephone conferencing in the criminal procedures specifically enumerated in Section 15002(b)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys may submit interim vouchers for payment of fees and expenses for both attorneys and their service providers in any case, without the necessity of filing a motion for an order allowing interim payments. The initial voucher may be submitted no sooner than four months after the date of appointment/for services rendered to date. Subsequent interim vouchers may be submitted when the current interim voucher amount is greater than \$4,000 or at intervals of four months after the date of the previously submitted interim voucher.

The court announced March 30 that it has installed drop boxes at courthouses to further limit unnecessary person-to-person interactions.

On April 8, the court issued a further order underlining the need to continue all criminal jury trials through May 1. **Chief Judge Michael F. Urbanski** explained, "The court now expounds upon those findings that the ends of justice warrant such an exclusion from the speedy trial clock."

## Washington

The **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington** on April 7 superseded its earlier orders: All hearings in civil and criminal cases scheduled for in-court appearances are now vacated through May 15. All associated case management deadlines related to those affected civil and criminal cases are suspended, subject to presiding judge orders.

All grand jury sessions through May 15 are vacated. Determinations of excusable delay for the time period in which to file an indictment will be made on a per-case basis according to 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(b) and 3161(h).

Based on the "widespread nature of the risks posed by COVID-19," the court reset hearings in all pending criminal cases. The time period from April 7 through May 15 is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Counsel does not need to object to this order to preserve any issues for litigation, including an alleged violation of a client's constitutional rights, as objections will be required in each individual case.

Essential magistrate judge hearings and functions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Hearings in civil or criminal matters set for telephone appearance or hearings set without oral argument are not affected by this order.

The clerk's office will not be physically accessible to the public but will remain open. Designated drop-boxes are available.

Naturalization ceremonies are canceled through May 15.

On April 6, the court enacted its Continuity of Operations Plan. The courthouse in **Richland** is closed through May 1.

Remote access to audio content of court proceedings will be provided in real time to members of the press and public through a dedicated teleconference line, free of charge.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the **U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington** on March 30 authorized judges' use of video and phone conferencing to conduct certain criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas, with the defendant's consent, when the presiding judge determines that the proceeding cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice." Such proceedings should be continued if a delay will not cause harm.

On April 13, the court ordered courthouses to remain closed and the procedures established by its March 17 and March 25 orders remain in place. The court extended continuances by 30 days, to July 1. All grand jury proceedings, as well as civil and criminal in-person hearings and trial dates scheduled to occur before July 1, are continued. The time period of the continuances is excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

## West Virginia

As of April 17, the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia** remains open and is accepting filings with only essential staff in the courthouses during business hours.

All deadlines and scheduled hearings remain in place from the court's March 20 order. Statutes of limitations are not tolled. The court has suspended the requirement of paper copies of formal briefs and appendices. Visitor restrictions are in place.

Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys may submit interim vouchers for payment of fees and expenses for both attorneys and their service providers in any case, without the necessity of filing a motion for an order allowing interim payments. The initial

voucher may be submitted (no sooner than four months after the date of appointment/for services rendered to date). Subsequent interim vouchers may be submitted when the current interim voucher amount is greater than \$4,000 or at intervals of four months after the date of the previously submitted interim voucher.

On March 30, in response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court issued an order authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing for criminal matters, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, waivers of indictment, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with the defendant's consent.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas, with the defendant's consent, when the presiding judge determines that the proceeding cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

The **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia** has continued all civil and criminal petit jury selections and trials scheduled through April 24 before any district or magistrate judge.

The time period of continuances in criminal trials will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All other in-person civil and criminal proceedings, including court appearances, trials, hearings, settlement conferences, admission ceremonies, and grand jury meetings, originally scheduled through April 24 are postponed, to be rescheduled at a later date.

The May 4 naturalization ceremony is postponed.

The 30-day time period for filing an indictment or an information is tolled as to each defendant from March 13 through April 24.

The court will remain open for emergency criminal, civil, and bankruptcy matters related to public safety, public health and welfare, and individual liberty.

Courthouses are closed to the general public.

Applicable statutes of limitation are not tolled.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court issued an order March 30 authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing to conduct certain criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent, if the presiding judge concludes that the proceeding cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

## Wisconsin

The **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin** on March 16 ordered all civil and criminal jury trials, petty offense proceedings, and START reentry court proceedings continued to a date after May 1.

The court also continued all grand jury proceedings to a date after May 1.

The court ordered all civil hearings, including settlement conferences conducted by telephone or videoconference.

Under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 4.1, judges will review by electronic means complaints, applications for search warrants or trap/trace/pen registers, applications for wire taps or applications for other warrants or orders.

Initial appearances and arraignments may be conducted by video conference under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 5(f) and 10(c).

All hearings on the revocation of supervised release are continued to a date after May 1.

The duration of continuances in criminal trials will be excluded from the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

All naturalization ceremonies scheduled before May 1 are canceled, as are all noncore public events.

On March 23, the court ordered the courthouse closed through May 1. Parties wishing to file documents may file them electronically, deposit them in the external drop box outside the building, or mail them.

Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys may submit interim vouchers greater than \$500 for compensation as long as the attorney does not submit the voucher within two months of submitting the prior interim voucher in the same matter.

In response to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the court issued an order March 29 authorizing judges' use of video and phone conferencing to conduct certain criminal proceedings, including detention hearings, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, arraignments, and misdemeanor pleas and sentencings, with a defendant's consent.

Video or telephone conferencing can be used for felony pleas and sentencing, with the defendant's consent, if the presiding judge concludes that the proceeding cannot be delayed without "serious harm to the interests of justice."

On April 9, the court granted the **Wisconsin Department of Justice's** ex parte motion for an order staying deadlines in open civil cases brought by plaintiffs who are or were previously incarcerated in the state and cases related to prison litigation in which the DOJ currently represents at least one of the defendants.

The court has authorized the broadcasting of federal trial court proceedings to the public.

The **U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin** has suspended all civil and criminal jury trials through May 18.

All in-person hearings are also scheduled until after May 18.

The court ordered that the period of any continuance entered from March 18 through May 18 be excluded by the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C.A. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

The courthouse remains open to the public but the clerks' office front desk is closed. Paper documents will not be accepted in person. The drop box in the lobby may be used for filing documents. Payments by check or money order will be accepted by mail or the courthouse drop boxes.

## Wyoming

The **U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming** limited its courthouse hours of public operation to 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. through April 6.

## Bankruptcy courts

### Alabama

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Alabama** has issued an amended administrative order extending indefinitely the timeframe for which all hearings are to be held telephonically rather than in person.

All Section 341 meetings of creditors are also to be held by phone.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Alabama** will conduct all hearings by telephone rather than in person at the federal courthouses throughout the district.

Section 341 meetings will be conducted telephonically by a trustee in a "location and manner" determined by the bankruptcy administrator of the district.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Alabama** will hold only telephonic hearings in all pending cases.

Matters in motion dockets requiring an evidentiary hearing will be rescheduled.

Chapter 7, 11 and 13 Section 341 meetings will be conducted by telephone.

Chapter 13 attorneys who agree with a trustee's plan payment calculations may notify the trustee's office and are not required to attend telephonic hearings.

### Alaska

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Alaska** will continue to hear previously scheduled matters telephonically.

No in-court trial or evidentiary hearing will begin before July 6, unless otherwise ordered by the court. All trial or evidentiary hearing dates scheduled during that period shall be vacated and reset for scheduling conferences by separate order within the individual cases.

Paper documents delivered to the **Anchorage** courthouse must be deposited in the clerk's office drop box(es) in the lobby of the **Old Federal Building** in Anchorage. Drop box access will be available from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1-4:30 p.m. on business days, as permitted by the courthouse status. Those who intend to utilize the drop box should check that the building is open before traveling to the courthouse.

All persons over age 2 seeking access to or operating within the courthouse are required to wear a face covering or mask at all times while occupying public spaces or common areas, unless otherwise directed by the court or a courthouse official.

Federal and state courts in Alaska have already barred entry by people meeting symptom or risk criteria for COVID-19.

## Arizona

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona** has extended its suspension of all trials and hearings requiring witness testimony or presentation of other evidence until June 30. They will be rescheduled. All other hearings and mediations until June 30 will be conducted telephonically.

Documents and payments are to be submitted in the court drop box for next-day processing.

The requirement to obtain original signatures from debtors for electronic filings is suspended until further notice.

## Arkansas

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas** has suspended all in-person hearings until further notice.

Clerks' offices will remain open to process filings, and all chambers are available by email and phone.

All matters scheduled through June will remain on the docket, and decisions will be made individually about whether to hold a telephonic or audiovisual hearing.

All Section 341 meetings scheduled through the end of June will proceed telephonically.

The requirement to obtain original signatures from debtors for electronic filings is suspended until further notice.

## California

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California**, most matters, including Section 341 meetings, will proceed telephonically.

There is no other change to currently calendared motions.

The court has suspended its rule requiring delivery of documents under 25 pages to the judges' chambers. Documents of more than 25 pages must still be provided through mail or drop box.

Mediations conducted by a judge are suspended through July 1, unless ordered to proceed telephonically.

Signature pages may be submitted electronically.

The court has implemented a three-phase reopening plan, the first phase of which was set to begin after June 1. Phase one involves certain courthouse staff returning in preparation for limited in-court hearings.

Phase two, reopening of courthouses for limited in-court hearings, will begin three weeks after phase one. Phase three, resumption of jury trials, will be implemented at a date to be determined.



All individuals seeking entry into courthouses must wear face coverings that completely conceal the nose and mouth.

All appearances at the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California** will be made telephonically until further notice.

Section 341 meetings for all cases filed through July 10 will be held telephonically or by other alternative means.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California** has vacated all in-court trial or evidentiary hearings scheduled through May 1; the presiding judge will reset them.

All appearances are to be made telephonically.

Requirements for courtesy copies of filings are suspended until further notice.

The court has also suspended its rule requiring original signatures from debtors for electronic filings. Instead, a participant must obtain either a digital signature using any commercially available digital signature software or written permission from the signatory to file the document in question.

In cases in which the meeting of creditors was set between March 17 and May 31, the 60-day deadline set under Rule 1017(e) for the U.S. trustee to file a motion to dismiss for abuse will begin on the reset date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 2003(a) for setting deadlines for holding meetings of creditors will be continued to the reset date for the meeting of creditors.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 4004(a) for objections to the debtor's discharge will begin on the reset date for the meeting of creditors.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 4007(c) for filing a complaint as to the dischargeability of certain debts under 11 U.S.C.A. § 523(c) will begin on the reset date for the meeting of creditors.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 4008(a) for filing a reaffirmation agreement will begin on the reset date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline under 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308(a) for filing tax returns will be the day before the reset date for the meeting of creditors.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California** will conduct all hearings telephonically unless otherwise ordered by the assigned judge.

Parties are directed to follow mandatory telephonic hearing guidelines posted on the court's website.

All Chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 Section 341 meetings through July 10 will be continued or held telephonically.

The Bankruptcy Self-Help Center has reopened remotely, allowing access to assistance by telephone.

The court has issued an administrative order temporarily extending certain deadlines contained in the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 1007 for debtors in Chapter 7 cases to file the statement required by Rule 1007(b)(7) will run from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 2003(a) for holding Section 341 meetings will run from a date to be determined by the U.S. trustee.

The deadline set under Rule 2015.3(b) for the trustee or debtor in possession to file a financial report regarding each entity that is not a publicly traded corporation or a debtor in a bankruptcy case, and in which the estate holds a substantial or controlling interest, will run from the date that is seven days before the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 4008(a) for filing a reaffirmation agreement is extended to 60 days after the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline under 11 U.S.C.A. §1308(a) for filing tax returns is extended to the day before the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The court also outlined a procedure for matters that require a request or motion for extension with an opportunity for a hearing. A party seeking an extension must file a notice on or before the current deadline. Any opposition must be filed no more than 10 days after service of the notice. If no opposition is filed, the extension will be deemed granted.

The requirement to obtain original signatures from debtors for electronic filings will be suspended until further notice.

## Colorado

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Colorado** has barred entry by anyone in COVID-19 symptom or risk categories.

The intake counter will be providing remote assistance.

Paper filings and noncash payments from pro se individuals may be submitted by mail, drop box or online. Attorneys should submit filings electronically.

All nonevidentiary hearings will be conducted by phone.

All trials and evidentiary hearings will be conducted in person and require appearances in the courtroom, though affidavits are encouraged to increase social distancing.

All Section 341 meetings will be conducted telephonically through July 10.

## Connecticut

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut** has closed the clerk's office and courtrooms to the public. All manual filings shall be made at a lock box designated for that purpose located in the entrance lobby of the courthouses.

All Chapter 13 hearings will be held telephonically.

The requirement to obtain original signatures from debtors for electronic filings will be suspended until further notice.

The court has issued a general order extending certain deadlines in connection with continued Section 341 meetings.

## Delaware

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware** announced that there is no in-person access to the clerk's office, but it will remain open to the public through telephone and email access and drop boxes in the courthouse lobby.

Court personnel have been ordered to wear a mask or face covering when interacting with the public and when in the common or public areas of the court, unless they are able to maintain social distance.

In-person Section 341 meetings are continued through July 10.

Filing fees for individual bankruptcy petitions will be deferred.

Deadlines for paying outstanding fees and uncured deficiencies in individual bankruptcy cases are extended until further notice.

All hearings will be held telephonically through CourtCall and Skype for Business.

The continuation of non-time-sensitive matters mandated under a previous order was terminated May 18.

The court is no longer accepting hand-delivered documents.

## District of Columbia

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Columbia** is following a standing order issued March 16 by the U.S. District Court addressing court operations under COVID-19 exigent circumstances. The order says courts will remain open but with limited operations.

All bankruptcy proceedings scheduled until July 15 are postponed unless the presiding judge issues an order that the proceeding be held by teleconference, videoconference or in person.

The clerk's office will remain open but with restricted public access.

All courthouse visitors must wear a mask or face covering for their nose and mouth in common areas.

Self-represented individuals may use courthouse drop boxes.

For emergency or sealed filings, contact the clerk's office, as these may not be put in a drop box.

Cash payments will not be accepted. Payments may be made with credit card or check.

The court does not accept personal checks from nonattorneys and cannot process credit cards at the intake counter, but will accept electronic payment, a cashier's check, money order or check drawn from an attorney's account.

## Florida

Section 341 meetings in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida** will be conducted by telephone or video appearance in all cases filed through Oct. 10, and all initial debtor interviews in Chapter 11 and Subchapter V cases will be conducted telephonically.

The court has also extended certain deadlines in connection with rescheduled Section 341 meetings.

The deadline is 60 days from the date of the rescheduled meeting for debtors in Chapter 7 cases to file the required Rule 1007(b) (7) statement; for the U.S. trustee to file a motion to dismiss for abuse; for objections to discharge under 11 U.S.C.A. § 727; for filing complaints to determine the dischargeability of debts under 11 U.S.C.A. § 523(c); and for filing a reaffirmation agreement.

The deadline under 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308(a) for Chapter 13 debtors to file prepetition tax returns is extended to the day before the rescheduled Section 341 meeting

The deadline under Rule 2015.3(b) for the trustee or debtor in possession to file a financial report regarding each entity that is not a publicly traded corporation or a debtor in a bankruptcy case and in which the estate holds a substantial or controlling interest is extended to seven days before the rescheduled Section 341 meeting.

The deadlines under Rule 2003(c) for holding Section 341 meetings are extended to the extent necessary to accommodate the postponement of Section 341 meetings by the Office of the U.S. Trustee or court order.

All nonevidentiary hearings will be conducted by phone using either CourtCall or CourtSolutions, as indicated by the judge's webpage.

Judges may continue non-time-sensitive evidentiary hearings.

The intake windows in all divisions are closed until June 30. Pro se filers can file bankruptcy petitions and other papers by email, fax, and U.S. mail or other delivery.

The requirement to obtain original signatures from debtors for electronic filings is suspended.

All court locations in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida** are closed to the public, except for those who must be present for matters requiring in-person attendance.

All hearings will be held telephonically via CourtCall.

The requirement to obtain original signatures from debtors for electronic filings is suspended.

Pro se litigants are temporarily permitted to file new pleadings by email, fax or U.S. mail.

Section 341 meetings will be conducted by telephone or video appearance in all cases filed through Oct. 10.

The court has also extended certain deadlines in connection with rescheduled Section 341 meetings.

The deadline is 60 days from the date of the rescheduled meeting for debtors in Chapter 7 cases to file the required Rule 1007(b) (7) statement; for the U.S. trustee to file a motion to dismiss for abuse; for objections to discharge under 11 U.S.C.A. § 727; for filing complaints to determine the dischargeability of debts under 11 U.S.C.A. § 523(c); and for filing a reaffirmation agreement.

The deadline under 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308(a) for Chapter 13 debtors to file prepetition tax returns is extended to the day before the rescheduled Section 341 meeting

The deadline under Rule 2015.3(b) for the trustee or debtor in possession to file a financial report regarding each entity that is not a publicly traded corporation or a debtor in a bankruptcy case and in which the estate holds a substantial or controlling interest is extended to seven days before the rescheduled Section 341 meeting.

The deadlines under Rule 2003(c) for holding Section 341 meetings are extended to the extent necessary to accommodate the postponement of Section 341 meetings by the Office of the U.S. Trustee or court order.

Payments should be made by mailing a check or money order to the Tallahassee Division; payments cannot be accepted at Pensacola.

All hearings in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida** will be conducted telephonically and all trials and evidentiary hearings will be rescheduled, except evidentiary hearings normally held shortly after a Chapter 11 filing.

Section 341 meetings will be conducted by telephone or video appearance in all cases filed through Oct. 10, and all initial debtor interviews in Chapter 11 and Subchapter V cases will be conducted telephonically.

Courthouses in **Fort Lauderdale, Fort Pierce, Key West, Miami and West Palm Beach** will remain open for business with reduced staffing.

All persons entering any federal courthouse facility must wear a face mask and maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet apart at all times unless otherwise directed by the court.

A notice posted by the clerk of court provides contact information for each judge and the telephone hearing system used, which is available free to individuals not represented by counsel.

The court has extended deadlines in conjunction with postponed Section 341 meetings. Deadlines under Bankruptcy Rules 1007(c), 1017(e)(1), 2002(h), 2015.3(b), 4004(a), 4007(c) and 4008(a) will be calculated from the date of the rescheduled Section 341 meeting.

Deadlines under Bankruptcy Rule 2003(c) for holding Section 341 meetings are extended to the extent necessary to accommodate postponement of the meetings by the Office of the U.S. Trustee or court order.

The requirement to obtain original signatures from debtors for electronic filings is suspended.

## Georgia

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Georgia** has suspended public access to court facilities until further notice.

All hearings will be held telephonically through July 3.

Effective immediately, all in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10 will be reset.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 1007 for debtors in Chapter 7 cases to file the statement required by Rule 1007(b)(7) will run from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 1017(e) for filing a motion to dismiss for abuse will run from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 2003(a) for holding Section 341 meetings will be extended to 60 days from the relief order in Chapter 7 liquidation cases, to 45 days after the relief order in Chapter 12 cases and to 70 days after the relief order in Chapter 13 cases.

The deadline set under Rule 2015.3(b) for the trustee or debtor in possession to file a financial report regarding each entity that is not a publicly traded corporation or a debtor in a bankruptcy case and in which the estate holds a substantial or controlling interest will be seven days before the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 4004(a) for objections to the debtor's discharge will run from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 4007(c) for filing a complaint as to the dischargeability of certain debts under 523(c) will run from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 4008(a) for filing a reaffirmation agreement is extended to 60 days after the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline under 11 U.S.C.A. §1308(a) for filing tax returns is extended to the day before the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

Through April 30, digital signatures will be allowed on petitions, pleadings and other documents that would normally require attorneys to obtain original signatures at filing. Attorneys must obtain original signatures within 60 days of filing digitally signed documents.

The court issued an administrative order allowing for the 21-day notice requirement set under Rule 2002(a)(1) to be shortened for meetings of creditors originally scheduled between March 17 and April 10.

The court will allow digital signatures on petitions, pleadings, documents and other papers attorneys are required to maintain through July 3.

All hearings will be held telephonically in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia** unless arrangements have been made with chambers. Dial-in numbers are on each judge's webpage.

All Section 341 meetings between March 16 and April 10 are reset.

A March 16 general order addressed changes in deadlines necessitated by the reset of Section 341 meetings.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 1007 for debtors in Chapter 7 cases to file the statement required by Rule 1007(b)(7) will run from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 1017(e) for filing a motion to dismiss for abuse will run from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 2003(a) for holding Section 341 meetings will be extended to 60 days from the relief order in Chapter 7 liquidation cases and Chapter 11 reorganizations, to 45 days after the relief order in Chapter 12 cases, and to 70 days after the relief order in Chapter 13 cases.

The deadline set under Rule 2015.3(b) for the trustee or debtor in possession to file a financial report regarding each entity that is not a publicly traded corporation or a debtor in a bankruptcy case and in which the estate holds a substantial or controlling interest will be seven days before the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 4004(a) for objections to the debtor's discharge will run from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 4007(c) for filing a complaint as to the dischargeability of certain debts under 523(c) will run from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 4008(a) for filing a reaffirmation agreement is extended to 60 days after the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline under 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308(a) for filing tax returns is extended to the day before the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

On March 20, the clerk of court issued a disclaimer of the recording abilities associated with its use of AT&T conference services to conduct proceedings. Parties who want to use a private vendor such as CourtCall must provide 48 hours' notice.

A March 31 general order modifies the procedure for filing "verified papers," including petitions, until further notice.

Papers can be filed electronically without the debtor's original signature as long as the debtor's attorney certifies that the debtor has signed the document and the attorney, at the time of filing, possesses an image of the document including the signature page.

Intake counters at the **Atlanta** and **Newman** offices will remain open to accept filings. The **Rome** and **Gainesville** offices were expected to reopen April 1.

Pro se parties are permitted to file papers by U.S. mail, hand delivery, email, fax or by way of a fileable form.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia** is following the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia in limiting access to its court buildings.

All in-person Section 341 meetings for Chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 cases scheduled until April 10 were reset under the orders, and deadlines that accrue pursuant to these meetings will be pegged to the new meeting dates.

The U.S. Trustee Program is extending the requirement that Section 341 meetings be conducted by telephone or video appearance to all cases filed through Oct. 10.

The court adopted emergency online filing procedures to accept PDF filings of court documents and will hold hearings over the phone until the order is rescinded.

Remote filings of verified pleadings and petitions will require proof of the debtor's signature on a version of the document held by their attorney, according to a March 19 order.

Those who are unable to file documents electronically should send them to [EmergencyFilingsUSBC@gas.uscourts.gov](mailto:EmergencyFilingsUSBC@gas.uscourts.gov).

## Guam

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Guam** has reopened the courthouse, but access is limited.

The clerk's office window will be open to the public from 8 a.m. until noon, Monday through Friday.

Everyone over the age of 2 must wear a face covering in all public areas of the courthouse building and adhere to 6-foot social distancing measures as recommended by the CDC.

All Chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 bankruptcy cases with scheduled hearings and other meetings on the docket through April 10 will be rescheduled.

In Chapter 13 cases in which the meeting of creditors has been postponed, the deadline for filing an action under Section 523 of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C.A. § 523(c), is extended by up to and including 60 days after the rescheduled date.

In Chapter 7 cases in which the meeting of creditors has been postponed, the deadline for certain actions has been extended up to 60 days after the rescheduled meeting. The extension applies to actions for an exception to discharge under Section 523(c), to deny a discharge under Section 727(a) and to bring a motion to dismiss under Section 707(b)(3).

## Hawaii

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawaii** will hold all nonevidentiary meetings and hearings via teleconference for the indefinite future. The toll-free phone number for the court is (866) 390-1828 and the access code is 3287676.

Section 341 meetings will be conducted by telephone or video appearance in all cases filed through Oct. 10.

All trials and evidentiary hearings scheduled through May 3 will be rescheduled. The court has not ordered any "blanket extension" of deadlines, except for adjusting deadlines that are pegged to the date of rescheduled Section 341 meetings.

The court also released guidelines for teleconferences, including requests that participants in remote hearings and meetings call in early and take steps to mitigate unnecessary noise during proceedings.

A March 20 general order relaxed the requirement to obtain the debtor's original signature on petitions, schedules and statements before the electronic filing of the petition. Debtors must still sign electronically filed documents, but it is suggested that the debtor be instructed to sign and mail this form directly to the court rather than return it to the attorney.

## Idaho

On March 31, the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Idaho** announced that the federal courthouses would be closed through May 11.

Only essential hearings were to be held during this time of closure. Any hearings deemed essential by the presiding judge were to be conducted with no more than 10 people physically present in the courtroom, and only people specifically permitted by the presiding judge were allowed to participate.



A May 11 order said the courthouse planned to fully reopen June 13, permitting gatherings of any size and unrestricted worksites and encouraging physical distancing and use of cloth face coverings/masks.

## Illinois

All hearings currently scheduled in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of Illinois** through July 17 will held telephonically or by videoconference.

Physical public access to the courthouse remains limited at this time.

All Section 341 in-person meetings in Chapter 7, 12 and 13 cases scheduled through April 10 will be continued. Meetings that were already scheduled to proceed telephonically can take place. Deadlines pegged to the rescheduled meetings have been modified.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 1007 for debtors in Chapter 7 cases to file the statement required by Rule 1007(b)(7) will run 60 days from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 1017(e) for filing a motion to dismiss for abuse will run 60 days from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 4004(a) for objections to the debtor's discharge will run 60 days from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 4007(c) for filing a complaint as to the dischargeability of certain debts under 523(c) will run 60 days from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 4008(a) for filing a reaffirmation agreement is extended to 60 days after the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline under 11 U.S.C.A. §1308(a) for filing tax returns is extended to the day before the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 2015.3(b) for the trustee or debtor in possession to file a financial report regarding each entity that is not a publicly traded corporation or a debtor in a bankruptcy case, and in which the estate holds a substantial or controlling interest, is extended to seven days before the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The court issued a March 24 order relaxing the requirement to obtain the debtor's original signature on petitions. Documents may be electronically signed or filed without an original signature in the attorney's possession if the attorney has an image or fax of the original from the signee.

Electronic and mail filing is permitted, and documents can also be filed via drop boxes between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on business days.

Since the District Court will share the drop boxes, attorneys are asked to clearly address the filing to a specific court and avoid including loose papers or anything else that could get misplaced in the boxes. Everyone using the drop boxes must include their contact information on the filings.

The Bankruptcy Court also announced that employees in the **Springfield** and **Urbana** offices will be working remotely on Fridays. Any documents placed in the drop boxes at those locations on Fridays will not be processed until the following Monday.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois** will conduct court calls and motions telephonically using CourtSolutions. Those without access to a computer can call (917) 746-7476 to participate.

Beginning June 1, all trials and evidentiary hearings will be held by video using the Zoom for Government platform.

All Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings will be held telephonically in the Western Division through Oct. 10, and through July 10 in the Eastern Division.

The Bankruptcy Court's public service counters at the **Chicago** and **Rockford** courthouses are closed until further notice. The clerk's office will still take papers for filing by mail from pro se parties.

All motions must be filed with the court at least seven days before the presentment date. Parties can also file an objection to a motion two days before presentment, without which judges may grant motions in advance.

**Joliet, Kane County** and **Lake County** meetings will be held via telephone at their scheduled times, but judges in other cases have updated hours and appointment times to avoid crossover in meetings on the phone.

Here is the schedule of judges' availabilities by telephone:

- **Chief Judge A. Benjamin Goldgar**: Monday, original motions at 9:30 a.m., set matters at 10 a.m.
- **Judge Janet S. Baer**: Wednesday, original motions at 1 p.m., set matters at 1:30 p.m.
- **Judge Timothy A. Barnes**: Monday, original motions at 1 p.m., set matters at 1:30 p.m.
- **Judge Donald R. Cassling**: Tuesday, original motions at 9:30 a.m., set matters at 10 a.m.
- **Judge David D. Cleary**: Wednesday, original motions at 10 a.m., set matters at 10:30 a.m.
- **Judge Jacqueline P. Cox**: Tuesday, original motions at 1 p.m., set matters at 1:30 p.m.
- **Judge Carol A. Doyle**: Thursday, original motions at 10 a.m., set matters at 10:30 a.m.
- **Judge LaShonda A. Hunt**: Thursday, all matters at 11 a.m.
- **Judge Thomas M. Lynch**: Wednesday, all matters at 11 a.m.
- **Judge Jack B. Schmetterer**: Tuesday, original motions at 10 a.m., set matters at 10:30 a.m.
- **Judge Deborah L. Thorne**: Thursday, original motions at 9 a.m., set matters at 9:30 a.m.

For documents that would typically require an original signature, electronic signatures, using a method like DocuSign, will be accepted.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Illinois** announced that all hearings will be held telephonically using AT&T Connect conference calling.

The **East St. Louis & Benton** courthouses will be closed to the public through July 5.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10 are continued until a date to be determined.

Deadlines triggered by the scheduling of the first Section 341 meeting are extended to 60 days after the setting of the first meeting of creditors.

Deadlines that must be completed before the setting of the first Section 341 meeting of creditors are extended to the day before the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

Deadlines under Rule 2003 for holding Section 341 meetings are extended to the extent necessary to accommodate the postponement of Section 341 meetings.

## Indiana

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Indiana** closed to the public March 18. All filings can be made through the mail or the court's usual electronic filing system.

Emergency filing and other arrangements can be made at (574) 968-2265.

Hearings scheduled after March 18 will be rescheduled or conducted telephonically. This includes Chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 Section 341 creditor meetings. Deadlines that accrue at the date of these meetings will also be pushed back up to 60 days.

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana**, all four courthouses are closed to the public. However, court operations are continuing, including answering phone calls and processing mail.

The requirement that counsel have the original document with the debtor's "wet signature" before filing is waived. Counsel for the debtor shall obtain the debtor's original signature as soon as practicable but no later than the day before the meeting of creditors.

Section 341 meetings will be conducted by telephone or video appearance in all cases filed through Oct. 10.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 1007 for debtors in Chapter 7 cases to file the statement required by Rule 1007(b)(7) will run 60 days from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 1017(e) for filing a motion to dismiss for abuse will run 60 days from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 2015.3(b) for the trustee or debtor in possession to file a financial report regarding each entity that is not a publicly traded corporation or a debtor in a bankruptcy case and in which the estate holds a substantial or controlling interest is seven days before the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The 30-day deadline set under Rule 4003(b) for objecting to a debtor's claim of exemptions will run from the reset date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 4004(a) for objections to the debtor's discharge will run 60 days from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 4007(c) for filing a complaint as to the dischargeability of certain debts under Section 523(c) will run 60 days from the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline set under Rule 4008(a) for filing a reaffirmation agreement is extended to 60 days after the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

The deadline under 11 U.S.C.A. §1308(a) for filing tax returns is extended to the day before the continued date for the meeting of creditors.

## Iowa

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Iowa** said it continues to closely monitor the national and local responses to COVID-19, and that it will inform individuals whose hearing is re-scheduled to a later date or is set to be held telephonically.

The clerk's office remains open to the public, but the hours of operation have been reduced to 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Entry to the courthouse is barred for anyone diagnosed with or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, anyone who has had close contact with a COVID-19 patient, and anyone who has been asked to self-quarantine by a health care professional.

Attorneys or parties who are unable to enter the courthouse because of this restriction can appear via teleconference or video conference with approval from the presiding judge.

All meeting of creditors will be held telephonically until further notice. There will be no in-person appearances. Chapter 7, 11, 12, and 13 notices will direct parties to attend Section 341 meetings by telephone.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Iowa** has not instituted many changes to its operations due to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

"Unless the court informs you otherwise all hearings will be conducted as scheduled," a March 17 announcement said. "Telephone and video conferencing may be more widely used to accommodate appearances. Counsel should file a motion requesting a continuance if additional precautions or circumstances warrant such action."

All paper filings will be placed in a locked drop box located near the entrance of the courthouse. After being processed, a file stamped copy of the documents will be sent to the filer.

The requirement that an attorney obtain original signatures before electronically filing documents is suspended until further notice as long as, prior to filing, the attorney has sent the entire document to the signer for review, has verified with the signer that he or she has received and reviewed the entire document, has informed the signer of the purpose of the document and has received express authorization from the debtor to file the document.

## Kansas

Effective March 18, Section 341 meetings in Chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 cases have been continued in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Kansas**. All deadlines triggered by the initial date set for those meetings are continued. Notices of the new dates, and in Chapter 13 cases the plan confirmation hearing date, will be issued to affected parties and counsel.

All Section 341 meetings will be held by telephone until further notice.

In a separate order, the court until further notice said it will accept digital images of original documents with wet ink signatures or those signed electronically on software such as DocuSign or Sign Easy.

The court also modified its procedures for notice to creditors. In certain circumstances, notices required by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2002(a) may be mailed only to the debtor, the trustee, all indenture trustees, creditors holding proofs of claim, creditors who have obtained an extension to file a proof of claim, and parties in interest expressly requesting notice.

The changes apply in three scenarios:

- Voluntary Chapter 7 cases, Chapter 12 cases and Chapter 13 cases, after 70 days following an order for relief under that chapter or the date of the order converting the case to Chapter 12 or 13.
- Involuntary Chapter 7 cases, after 90 days following the order for relief under that chapter.
- In cases where a notice of insufficient assets to pay a dividend has been provided to creditors, after 90 days following the mailing of a notice of the time for filing claims under Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3002(c)(5).

On April 9, the court announced special procedures effective while the courts remain closed to the public. Creditors can use either the Electronic Case Filing system or the online KSBFastFile tools available at <https://www.ksb.uscourts.gov/ksbfastfile> to electronically file claims, agreements and requests.

Individuals who are not represented by an attorney may submit PDF files to be filed in their case via email or U.S. mail.

## Kentucky

The **United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky** has continued all matters that were scheduled for hearing April 2 (Lexington division), April 7 (Covington division), April 8 (Ashland division) and April 9 (Frankfort/Lexington divisions).

On March 30, the court announced that it had developed virtual filing procedures. Registered CM/ECF users shall continue to use the CM/ECF filing system to file documents and Pay.gov to pay any fees as they become due. Nonregistered CM/ECF users who need to file a proof of claim are encouraged to use the court's electronic proof-of-claim portal available at <https://www.kyeb.uscourts.gov/electronic-proof-claim-epoc-and-related-documents>.

Pro se individuals must file paper documents either by first class mail or email.

Clerk's office staff remain available by telephone between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at 859-233-2608, ext. 7177, to answer questions concerning filing and other court procedures.

The **United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Kentucky** announced it will be closed to the public effective March 30.

The clerk's office will otherwise remain in business Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The court will continue to accept electronic and mail submissions and process of bankruptcy cases, pleadings and proofs of claims.

The court issued an order permitting the electronic filing of a verified paper under certain conditions March 19.

Section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10 in all divisions will be postponed and rescheduled to a later date.

The deadlines set under Rules 1007(c), 1017(e)(1), 2002(h), 2015.3(b), 4004(a), 4007(c) and 4008(a) will be calculated from the reschedule date.

The deadline set under Rule 1308(a) setting the date on which the meeting of creditors will be extended to the reschedule date.

The deadlines set under Rule 2003(c) for holding Section 341 meetings are extended until necessary to accommodate the postponement and subsequent rescheduling.

## Louisiana

Effective April 3, the **United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana** is closed to the public.

The Bankruptcy Court will continue operating with "skeletal crews" to perform critical mission responsibilities.

Litigants may file documents electronically, by U.S. mail or by fax.

Emergency bankruptcy petitions may be filed electronically by accessing the following link: <https://www.laeb.uscourts.gov/sites/laeb/files/EmergencyPetition.pdf>.

Official Form 121 Statement About Your Social Security Numbers must be completed and filed separately from petitions. This form can be accessed at <https://www.laeb.uscourts.gov/sites/laeb/files/B121SocialSecurity.pdf>.

Section 341 meetings will either be postponed and rescheduled or held telephonically, depending on the policies of those offices, which will be issued separately.

The requirement that an attorney obtain original signatures before electronically filing documents is suspended until further notice as long as, prior to filing, the attorney has sent the entire document to the signer for review and the attorney has an image or other proof of the signer's signature on the document at time of filing. Additionally, the attorney must file a certification within 30 days of filing the document that they have received the debtor's original signature and will maintain it.

The court issued an order April 8 temporarily allowing debtors seeking extension of an automatic stay under Rules 362(c)(3) or (4) to file a declaration, under penalty of perjury, asserting facts showing "that the filing of the current bankruptcy case is in good faith as to the creditors to be stayed." If no response is timely filed, the court may grant the motion without a hearing if the debtor's declaration is satisfactory.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Louisiana** remains open to the public but with some limitations.

Until the courthouse reopens, the court will consider matters on a case-by-case basis. Uncontested matters may be granted without hearing. Matters that require a hearing, due to opposition or questions by the court, will be continued or heard telephonically.

All in-person Section 341 meetings have been rescheduled to take place by telephone.

The requirement to obtain original signatures from debtors for electronic filings will be suspended until further notice.

The court issued an order March 27 temporarily allowing debtors seeking extension of an automatic stay under Rules 362(c) (3) or (4) to file an attachment supporting their motion.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Louisiana** will conduct all nonevidentiary hearings by telephone.

Where an evidentiary hearing is required, the presiding judge will issue guidance on how the hearing will be conducted after being notified that this type of hearing is needed.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings scheduled through May 10 are continued.

In a March 19 order, the court announced that all deadlines imposed by the court, local rules or the bankruptcy rules are tolled for the period that the court remains under COVID-19 protocol. All statutory deadlines remain in effect, however.

The requirement that an attorney obtain original signatures before electronically filing documents is suspended until further notice as long as, prior to filing, the attorney has sent the entire document to the signer for review, has verified with the signer that he or she has received and reviewed the entire document, has informed the signer of the purpose of the document and has received express authorization from the debtor to file the document.

## Maine

In the **United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine** all participation in hearings through May 19 must be done by telephone.

On March 16, a notice was issued continuing all in-person Section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10 in all Chapter 7, 12 and 13 cases.

The phrase "first date set for the meeting of creditors" as used in the Bankruptcy Rules shall be the rescheduled date.

The deadlines that run from the "first date set for the meeting of creditors" under Bankruptcy Rules 1007(c), 1017(e), 1019(1)(B), 2002(h), 2015.3(b), 4002(b)(3) and (4), 4004(a), 4007(c), 4008(a), and 5009(b) shall be calculated from the rescheduled date.

The deadlines under Bankruptcy Rule 2003(a) for holding Section 341 meetings are extended to the extent necessary to accommodate the postponement of the Section 341 meetings.

For purposes of 11 U.S.C.A. § 521(a)(2)(B), the phrase "the first date set for the meeting of creditors" shall be the rescheduled date.

For purposes of 11 U.S.C.A. § 704(b)(1)(A), the phrase "the date of the first meeting of creditors" shall be the rescheduled date.

For purposes of 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308(a) and (b)(1), the phrase "the date on which the meeting of the creditors is first scheduled to be held" shall be the rescheduled date.

Effective March 30 the clerk's office intake window will be closed to the public for in-person filings.

Clerk's office staff will be working during regular business hours and will be available to assist the public by email and telephone. The Portland office can be reached at (207) 780-3482, and the Bangor office can be reached at (207) 945-0348.

## Maryland

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland** has postponed all hearings scheduled to occur through April 24, unless the presiding judge in an individual case orders otherwise.

The clerk's office remains open to the public through telephone access and the drop boxes in each courthouse's lobby. Drop box hours are 9 a.m. to midnight in Baltimore and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Greenbelt.

All filing deadlines set to fall between March 16 and April 24 have been extended by 42 days.

The requirement to obtain original signatures has been changed. Documents may be electronically filed if the debtor's attorney either obtains the original signature before filing or files the document electronically without the original signature in his or her possession, provided that such electronic filing constitutes a certification by the attorney that the debtor has signed the document and that, at the time of filing, the filing attorney is in possession of an image of the document that includes the signature.

All Section 341 meetings have been rescheduled to a date after April 10.

The deadlines set under Rules 1017(e)(1), 2002(h), 2015.3(b), 4004(a), 4007(c) and 4008(a) will be calculated from the rescheduled date.

The "date on which the meeting of creditors is first scheduled to be held" pursuant to 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308(a) will be the rescheduled date.

The deadlines under Rule 2003(a) for holding § 341 meetings are extended to the extent necessary to accommodate the postponement of the meetings.

The requirement to deliver paper courtesy copies to the clerk's office or to the chambers of a bankruptcy judge is suspended unless otherwise ordered by a presiding judge in a particular case.

On April 13, the court issued an administrative order setting deadlines for certain motions and applications. The deadline to file an objection or response to a motion or application that is filed after April 15 will be the deadline that would have been established under the Bankruptcy Code or the Bankruptcy Rules, notwithstanding the entry of two prior standing orders governing deadlines.

"The court determines there is an urgent need to allow reasonable progress under the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic on bankruptcy case matters considered to be significant," U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Thomas J. Catliota said in the order.

The April 13 order applies to applications to retain attorneys or other professionals, applications for professional compensation, applications for administrative claims, motions to redeem, a trustee's final report in Chapter 7 cases, motions to approve compromise or settlement, Chapter 12 plans, motions to modify a Chapter 12 or 13 plan, motions to incur debt or purchase real estate or a vehicle; motions to determine value, avoid a lien or set interest rate; motions involving debtor-in-possession financing; objections to Chapter 11 disclosure statements, and motions to extend time to file a motion to dismiss a case.



## Massachusetts

All hearings in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts** are being conducted telephonically.

The clerk's office staff are working remotely and continue to be available by telephone or email.

The court issued a March 17 order relaxing the requirement to obtain the debtor's original signature on petitions. Documents may be electronically signed or filed without an original signature in the attorney's possession if the attorney has an image or fax of the original from the signee.

The clerk is temporarily permitted to accept the filing of new petitions by pro se parties by email, fax, U.S. mail, or through physical deposit.

For each Chapter 7, 12, and 13 case filed from Jan. 17 through March 12 in which the Section 341 meeting was not held on the originally scheduled date, the "first date set for the meeting of creditors" under the bankruptcy rules will be the rescheduled date.

The deadlines set under Rules 1007(c), 1017(e), 2002(h), 4004(a), 4007(c), and 4008(a) will be calculated from the rescheduled date.

The deadline under Rule 2003(a) for holding Section 341 meetings is extended to the extent necessary to accommodate any postponement.

## Michigan

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan** will hold all hearings by telephone.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12 and 13 Section 341 meetings have been continued, unless they can proceed through telephonic or other means not requiring personal appearances.

The **Detroit** courthouse is closed with no mail delivery service or drop box options for filing paper documents. The **Flint** and **Bay City** courthouses remain open with both mail delivery and drop box options available for paper documents.

All mail correspondence to the court should be addressed to: The United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Michigan, 226 W. Second St., Flint, MI 48502.

The requirement to obtain a person's original signature before electronically filing a document has been temporarily suspended, provided that the filer obtains a digital signature or express written permission before filing.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Michigan** will hold all nonevidentiary hearings, status conferences, and pretrial conferences telephonically. All Section 341 meetings will be held telephonically.

Access to the clerk's office is limited to appointments.

If an attorney cannot physically obtain a debtor's "wet signature," the court will consider permitting a member of the bar to file petitions with the attorney's declaration establishing that authority and the circumstances surrounding it, and promptly complying, post-filing, with the usual signature requirements.

The court will host a Zoom town hall Q & A on April 17, to discuss court operations and procedures during the stay-at-home period.

## Minnesota

In the **United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota**, most hearings will proceed on a case-by-case basis.

All judges except **Judge Kathleen Sanberg** will handle hearings, trials, continuances and requests for telephonic appearances on a case by case. Until further notice, all of **Judge Sanberg's** hearings will be held telephonically.

The lobbies of the clerk's offices will be closed to the public.

Pro se parties and members of the public may drop off payments and documents for filing as directed outside each clerk's office, but are encouraged to mail payments and documents to the appropriate clerk's office. Filing fees may be paid by a cashiers' check or money order only.

The requirement that an attorney obtain a debtor's physical signature prior to electronically filing is suspended on the condition that, prior to filing, the attorney has obtained the debtor's digital signature via any commercially available digital signature software and maintains a copy of the digitally signed document in the debtor's case file, or obtains express written permission from the debtor to affix the debtor's signature to the document.

All meetings of creditors will be held telephonically or by video conference until further notice. Notices of Chapter 7, 11, 12 or 13 bankruptcy case commencement will, in place of the usual physical location of the meeting of creditors, direct parties to contact the trustee for instructions and information on attending Section 341 meetings by telephone or video conference.

## Mississippi

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Mississippi** has suspended all live docket calls and limited public access to the courthouse.

The court announced judges will consider in-person hearings where good cause is shown.

The clerk's office remains open at this time and will continue to process cases.

All Section 341 meetings will be conducted primarily by telephone.

The court issued an order permitting bankruptcy petitions, schedules, unsworn declarations, affidavits, verifications and other documents to be signed electronically. Electronic filers must either use electronic signature software or hold on to written authorization of the signer in the form of a letter, email, or facsimile for five years.

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi**, most hearings will be conducted telephonically until further notice, unless a party has been specifically instructed differently by a courtroom deputy.

The clerk's office remains open during regular business hours, and the Electronic Case Files system remains available at all times.

The U.S. Marshals Service will screen all persons attempting to enter courthouses for COVID-19 risk factors.

All Section 341 meetings will be conducted primarily by telephone.

## Missouri

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri** has given counsel the option to appear for hearings telephonically until further notice.

Counsel wanting to appear telephonically shall contact the courtroom deputy assigned to the judge presiding over their hearing via email in order to inform chambers of their telephonic appearance.

The courthouse remains open, but public entry is restricted to the main lobby on the first floor except for required in-person hearings or by authorization or appointment with a judge.

All in-person Section 341 meetings have been continued to a later date, unless telephonic or other alternative means of conducting the meeting were arranged.

All hearings and trials in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri** through May 3 will be conducted by telephone or continued based on the circumstances and at the discretion of the judge.

Public windows at all locations will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Outside of these hours, documents and pleadings may be placed in the drop box in the courthouse lobby and will be deemed filed that day. Phone calls will continue to be returned between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

All in-person Section 341 meetings have been continued, unless telephonic or other means of conducting the meeting were arranged that did not require personal appearance by the debtor.

## Montana

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Montana** will be closed to the public through May 29, with some limited exceptions. Essential hearings will be held telephonically.

Individual judges may continue to hold some proceedings, on a case-by-case basis.

All Section 341 meeting scheduled after March 30 will be held telephonically.

All documents may be signed and filed electronically.

The court will accept cash payments until further notice. Payments presented to the court at the intake counter may be in the form of a check, credit card, money order or cashier's check.

On April 15, the court issued an order permitting pro se filers to file and be served electronically through email.

## Nebraska

All matters in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nebraska** scheduled for an in-court appearance through June 1 are continued until further notice.

Hearings where appearance by alternate means has already been made available to the parties will proceed as scheduled using that alternate mode of appearance.

Public counters are closed until further notice.

A drop box will be available on the first floor of the **Hruska Federal Courthouse** in Omaha and on the first floor of the **Denney Federal Building** in Lincoln for documents that cannot be electronically filed or mailed.

All Chapter 7, 11, 12, and 13 meetings of creditors scheduled after April 1 for all locations in Nebraska will be conducted by telephone until further notice.

## Nevada

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy court for the District of Nevada**, hearings that require live witness testimony will rescheduled to a date after June 30. All currently scheduled hearings that do not require live witness testimony will remain on the calendar as scheduled.

All hearings will be held telephonically.

The clerk's office in Reno is closed to the public until further notice.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10, are hereby continued until a later date to be determined.

The deadline set under Rule 1007 for filing the statement required by Rule 1007(b)(7) will run from the rescheduled date.

The deadline set under Rule 1017(e) to file a motion to dismiss for abuse will run from the rescheduled date.

The deadlines set under Rule 2003(a) for holding a creditor meeting will be extended from 40 to 60 days in Chapter 7 and 11 cases, extended from 35 to 45 days in Chapter 12 cases, and from 50 to 70 days in Chapter 13 cases.

The deadline set under Rule 2015.3(b) to file financial reporting will run from the rescheduled date.

The deadline set under Rule 4004(a) for objecting a debtor's discharge will run from the rescheduled date.

The deadline set under Rule 4007(c) for filing a complaint as to the dischargeability of certain debts will run from the rescheduled date.

The deadline set under 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308(a) for filing tax returns will be the day before the rescheduled date.

The original signature requirement for pleadings and other documents is suspended, subject to the filer obtaining a digital signature or written consent to file from the would-be signer.

## New Hampshire

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Hampshire**, all trials and evidentiary hearings scheduled to commence through May 1 have been continued.

Participation in all other hearings will be via telephone conference.

Courthouses will remain closed to the public until further notice. While the court is closed to the public, court staff will be teleworking during regular business hours and will be available to assist the public via telephone at 603-222-2600.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10, are continued until a later date to be determined.

The phrase "first date set for the meeting of creditors" as used in the Bankruptcy Rules will be the rescheduled date.

The deadlines that run from the "first date set for the meeting of creditors" under Rules 1007(c), 1017(e), 1019(1)(B), 2002(h), 2015.3(b), 4002(b)(3) and (4), 4004(a), 4007(c), 4008(a), and 5009(b) will be calculated from the rescheduled date.

The deadlines under Rule 2003(a) for holding Section 341 meetings will be extended to the extent necessary to accommodate the postponement of the Section 341 meetings.

For purposes of 11 U.S.C. § 521(a)(2)(B), the phrase "the first date set for the meeting of creditors" will be the rescheduled date,

For purposes of 11 U.S.C. § 704(b)(1)(A), the phrase "the date of the first meeting of creditors" will be the rescheduled date.

For purposes of 11 U.S.C. § 1308(a) and (b)(1), the phrase "the date on which the meeting of the creditors is first scheduled to be held" will be the rescheduled date.

The court has suspended the requirement that filers must obtain wet-ink signatures prior to electronically filing documents on the condition that, prior to filing, the filer has verified that the signer has received the entire document to be filed and has informed the signer of the substance and purpose of the document, and has obtained express written permission, an image of the signed signature pages, the signer's digital signature, and has instructed the signer to send the original signed document to the filer as soon as is practicable.

The deadline for declarations regarding electronic filings has been extended from 7 to 21 days.

## New Jersey

All trials scheduled prior to April 30 in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey** will be adjourned and rescheduled by the court

The court will remain open. Clerk's office staff will be available by mail and email. Filings will continue through CM/ECF. Limited staff will be available to receive mail and process intake. The public should utilize court services in a manner consistent with state and local health guidelines.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10 have been continued, with the exception that Section 341 meetings could proceed through telephonic or other alternative means not requiring any personal appearances.

Any deadline to object to discharge or to the dischargeability of debt that would otherwise expire prior to April 30 is extended to 30 days from the expiration of the March 30 order.

Any deadline under 11 U.S.C.A. § 707 or 11 U.S.C.A. § 727 that would otherwise expire prior to April 30 is extended to 30 days from the expiration of the order.

Original signature retention requirements for counsel under local and national rules are deferred until April 30.

Parties initiating contested matters under Fed. R. Bank P. 9013 and 9014, may effectuate service through electronic mail until April 30. Regular mail service is still required for all parties and counsel for which such means of service is unavailable.

## New Mexico

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Mexico**, the courthouse remains open, but entry is limited to those who have official court business. Counsel, their clients and witnesses who have hearings before the bankruptcy judges are still able to enter the building for court proceedings.

All customer service windows in federal courthouses are closed until further notice.

The clerk's office continues to provide its full range of services in a "virtual courthouse" setting.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10 have been continued until a later date to be determined.

At this time the court is not willing to authorize use of digital signature software programs for the purpose of filing documents that require a person's signature.

## New York

All hearings in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York**, will be held telephonically until further notice.

Until further notice, the two divisions of the Bankruptcy Court will remain open for limited business.

Pro se filers should send their documents to the court by mail.

During this period of national emergency cash will not be accepted. Pro se filers are to use postal money orders or cashier's checks, made payable to Clerk, US Bankruptcy Court, for payment of filing fees.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12 and 13 Section 341 meetings through April 10 have been rescheduled.

The time to file a motion under 11 U.S.C.A. § 707 (b) or (c) should be extended to 90 days after the rescheduled date.

The time to file a complaint under 11 U.S.C.A. § 727, or a motion under Section 727(a)(8), (a)(9), or 1328(f), should be extended to 90 days after the rescheduled date.

The deadline set under Rule 4008(a) for filing a reaffirmation agreement should be extended to 90 days after the rescheduled date, unless a discharge has been granted before such date.

For each Chapter 7 case, "the date of the first meeting of creditors" pursuant to 11 U.S.C.A. § 704(b) shall be the rescheduled date for the Section 341 meeting.

The court issued an April 15 order stating that a pro se party's emailing of a document to NYEB\_Dropbox@nyeb.uscourts.gov shall constitute the filer's approved signature and have the same effect as if the individual signed a paper copy of the document.

All scheduled hearings and conferences in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of New York** will be held telephonically.

Evidentiary hearings and trials will proceed as scheduled.

The requirement of providing chambers copies is temporarily suspended.

The clerk's office has limited its hours to the public to 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10 have been continued until a later date to be determined. Meetings already scheduled as telephonic meetings may proceed as scheduled.

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York**, all hearings and conferences in all divisions will be conducted telephonically pending further order of a bankruptcy judge assigned to a matter.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10 have been continued until a later date to be determined. Meetings already scheduled as telephonic meetings may proceed as scheduled.

All **White Plains** Chapter 13 cases that are scheduled to be heard before **U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sean H. Lane** on April 22 are being adjourned to a date to be determined. These matters will be rescheduled after consultation with the parties and in a manner accounting for the health and safety of all parties.

Judge Lane will be moving forward on May 6 with a reduced Chapter 13 calendar for White Plains cases.

The court has suspended the requirement that a filer obtain an original signature before electronically filing a document provided that, prior to filing, the filer has verified that the signer received the entire document, has communicated with the signer regarding the substance and purpose of the document, has obtained the signer's express written permission and has obtained an image of the signer's signature, or has obtained the signer's digital signature (via any software that provides signature authentication) and instructed the signer to send or deliver the original signed papers to the filer as soon as practicable.

The court issued an April 6 order stating that a pro se party's emailing of a document to CaseFiling@nysb.uscourts.gov shall constitute the filer's approved signature and have the same effect as if the individual signed a paper copy of the document.

All in-person **Bankruptcy Legal Clinic** appointments are temporarily suspended. As an alternative to the in-person clinic, contact the court's customer service at (212) 284-4040.

All hearings in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York** will be held telephonically.

The front counter in the **Rochester** office is closed for in-person service. The office is open for questions by telephone: (585) 613-4200. Documents will continue to be received by mail and CM/ECF will continue to be available for electronic filing.

The **Buffalo** office remains open at this time. It is recommend that individuals call the clerk's office at (716) 362-3200 before coming to the office, as services may be limited.

A drop box is available in the lobby of the **Robert H. Jackson Courthouse** in Buffalo and on the sixth floor of the **Keating Federal Building in Rochester**, for the public to submit documents.

If filing a new case, time sensitive document, or for questions about how to file a document, call the Buffalo clerk's office at (716) 362-3200, or the Rochester clerk's office at (585) 613-4200.

Payments in the form of checks and money orders are also accepted by drop box, but only on Mondays and Thursdays for both offices. Outside of these collection days, mail the document with payment or remittance to the Buffalo or Rochester court clerk's offices. Cash is not accepted in either office.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12 and 13 Section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10 have been rescheduled.

The deadlines set under Rules 1007(b)(7), 1017(e)(1), 2002(h), and 4008(a), and under 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308(a) shall be calculated from the rescheduled date.

"[The] date on which the meeting of creditors is first scheduled to be held" pursuant to 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308(a) shall be the rescheduled date for all postponed Chapter 13 Section 341 meetings.

The deadlines under Rule 2003(a) for holding Section 341 meetings are extended to the extent necessary to accommodate the postponement of the Section 341 meetings.

## North Carolina

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina**, all scheduled hearings will be conducted telephonically or by Skype for Business.

The court's physical offices in Greenville and Raleigh are closed to the public for in-person filings and will not reopen until further notice.

All in-person Section 341 meetings through April 3 have been rescheduled. All meetings going forward will be held telephonically.

The "first date set for the meetings of creditors under 11 U.S.C.A. § 341(a)" as used in the Rules will be the rescheduled date.

Deadlines set under Rules 1007(c), 1017(e)(1), 2002(h), 2015.3(b), 4004(a), 4007(c) and 4008(a) will run from the rescheduled date.



"[T]he date on which the meeting of creditors is first scheduled to be held" under 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308(a) will be the rescheduled date for all postponed Chapter 13 Section 341 meetings.

Deadlines set under Rule 2003(c) for holding Section 341 meetings will be extended to the extent necessary to accommodate the postponement of the meetings.

The court has suspended the requirement that attorneys obtain original signatures before electronically filing documents, on the condition that, prior to filing, the attorney has either obtained a digital signature, or has express written permission to affix the signor's signature to the document.

All hearings in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of North Carolina** will be held telephonically.

Public intake counters in the Greensboro and Winston-Salem divisions of the clerk's office are closed.

All Chapter 7 and 13 Section 341 meetings will be conducted telephonically until further notice.

Several Chapter 13 Section 341 meetings have been continued. In Greensboro, the meetings have been continued to May 26, in Durham to May 8 and in Winston-Salem to May 15.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of North Carolina** will hold some hearings by telephone. All Asheville hearings scheduled for April will be conducted telephonically. Additionally, all Charlotte hearings in April before Judge Whitley will be conducted by phone.

The clerk's offices are closed to the public at all locations. Drop boxes are available at each location from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Filings may also be emailed or mailed to the Charlotte clerk's office. Questions about filings or payments should be directed to 704-350-7500.

All Section 341 meetings through May 15 will be held telephonically.

The court issued an order March 19 permitting attorneys to obtain digital signatures through commercial software or express written permission to affix a signor's signature to a filing instead of obtaining an original signature.

## North Dakota

All hearings in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of North Dakota** will be conducted telephonically or by video conference through May 31.

The clerk's office staff will be working remotely through May 31. Documents and filings received by mail will be processed on a periodic basis. The clerk's office will remain available by phone for assistance. Forms and instructions for filing are available on the court's website.

All Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings will be held via telephone or videoconference only. Debtors and creditors should contact the case trustee for instructions to appear via those means.

All bankruptcy case and adversary proceeding deadlines remain as scheduled.

## Ohio

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio** announced that unless litigants or attorneys are notified otherwise in general or by a judge in a specific matter or set of matters, it remains open to conduct scheduled hearings and court appearances.

All divisional offices, including intake desks, are closed to the general public. Clerk's office personnel will remain available for assistance by telephone.

Pro se parties may file documents via U.S. mail or by emailing the filings in PDF format to [OHNB\\_Temporary\\_Intake@ohnb.uscourts.gov](mailto:OHNB_Temporary_Intake@ohnb.uscourts.gov).

The court issued a March 23 order allowing documents to be filed with a digital signature, an image of the signer's signature, or express written permission to affix the signature to the filing in lieu of obtaining an original signature.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings have been continued until further notice, with the exception of Section 341 meetings that can proceed through telephonic or other alternative means not requiring any personal appearances.

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Ohio**, all in-person hearings that do not involve the presentation of evidence will be conducted telephonically.

The clerk's office will no longer accept filings and payments through the courthouse lobby drop boxes. Attorneys should continue to file online, and other filers may submit filings and payments by U.S. mail.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings have been continued until further notice, with the exception of Section 341 meetings that can proceed through telephonic or other alternative means not requiring any personal appearances.

The deadline set under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 1007(c) to file the financial management course certification is extended 90 days from the completion of the meeting of creditors for Chapter 7 cases, and extended 30 days for Chapter 11 and 13 cases.

Chapter 13 debtors who are experiencing a reduction or interruption in income due to COVID-19 may suspend or reduce Chapter 13 plan payments through an agreed order or a motion and proposed order.

Verified papers may be electronically filed if the signer's attorney obtains a signature prior to filing, or the signer's attorney maintains an image of the signature.

## Oklahoma

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma**, all hearings scheduled through June will be conducted by telephone.

In all cases filed through July 10, Section 341 meetings will be conducted only through telephonic or other means not requiring in-person appearances.

Access to the courthouse has been limited for individuals who have traveled or had contact with individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Anyone who wants to come to the courthouse is asked to first call (918) 549-7200.

The court has temporarily suspended the requirement that an attorney obtain original signatures before electronically filing documents on the condition that, before filing, the attorney has either obtained a digital signature via any commercially available digital signature technology and maintains a copy of the digitally signed documents in the case file, or has obtained the signer's express written permission to affix the signature to the documents and keeps a hard copy thereof in the file.

All hearings in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma** will be held telephonically until further notice.

The clerk's office is open to the public during regular hours, with minimal staff in the office and most staff teleworking. Access to the courthouse has been limited for individuals who have traveled or had contact with individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Section 341 meetings will be held by telephone.

All motions for relief from the automatic stay filed between April 20 and July 1 must include a statement explaining whether the enforcement of the mortgage or security agreement at issue in the motion is subject to any form of moratorium on foreclosure.

The court has temporarily suspended the original-signature requirement, authorizing attorneys to obtain a client's original "wet" signature in accordance with prior practice, by fax, email, text, or photo transmission of the signed document from the signer, or as a digital signature generated by a commercially available electronic signing technology that maintains an audit trail and other security features to ascertain the authentic identity of the signer.

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy for the Western District of Oklahoma**, all hearings and Section 341 meetings will be held telephonically until further notice.

The intake counter at the clerk's office is closed, and no person-to-person assistance is available until further notice. The public may submit filings or payments through a drop box located outside the clerk's office. The drop box will be checked daily during regular business hours.

The court has temporarily suspended the requirement that an attorney obtain original signatures prior to electronically filing documents on the condition that, prior to filing, the attorney has either obtained the signer's digital signature via any commercially available digital signature technology that provides signature authentication and maintains a copy of the digitally signed documents in the case file, has obtained the signer's express written permission to affix the signer's signature to the documents and will maintain a hard copy thereof in the file, or maintains a copy of the entire signed document at the time of filing.

## Oregon

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Oregon** is requiring participation by telephone for all hearings.

The clerk's office in **Eugene** is closed until further notice. A drop box is available in the lobby of the courthouse, but to minimize travel, the public is strongly encouraged to use other methods for filing documents and making payments.

The clerk's office in **Portland** is not permitting person-to-person contact with staff. A drop box is available for documents and check or money order payments. Cash payments will not be accepted. The clerk will email a confirmation or receipt once deposits are processed.

Debtors' attorneys may electronically file documents that require signatures without first obtaining the document with the debtor's ink signature, on the condition that the attorney first obtain an image of the document, such as a scan, photocopy, or fax of it, and the debtor's confirmation of the signature, either in person or by telephone or other electronic means, the debtor's written authorization for the attorney to sign the document on behalf of the debtor, or the document bearing a signature that is an electronic signature.

## Pennsylvania

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania**, all court appearances at hearings will be telephonic unless otherwise authorized by the presiding judge in an individual case.

The court's clerk's office in Philadelphia will remain open during regular business hours. The Reading office will be closed until further notice.

Paper filings and payments will not be accepted in person at the intake counter of the clerk's office until further notice. All paper filings, including sealed filings, should be left in the drop box in the lobby of the courthouses. All payments should be made by cashier's check, money order or checks drawn from counsel's account and made payable to "Clerk, USBC," but cash will not be accepted.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings for cases filed through July 10 have been continued to a later date.

All Chapter 11 meetings will be conducted through telephonic or other alternative means.

The court issued an order permitting creditors in Chapter 13 cases to notify the court, the trustee and all interested parties of the existence of a forbearance agreement between the creditor and the debtor, whether written or unwritten, by filing a Notice of Payment Change/Forbearance pursuant to Rule 3002.1(b).

The court announced that deadlines set under Rules 4004 (a) and (b), 4007(c) and 1017(e) that did not expire before March 18 are extended to May 18.

The court has suspended the requirement that a filer secure the signor's original signature before filing or electronically filing documents as long as the filer has:

- Verified with the signor that the signor has received the entire document to be signed.
- Communicated with the signor regarding the substance and purpose of the signed document.
- Obtained the signor's digital signature via any commercially available digital signature software or obtained express written permission from the signor to affix the signor's signature to the document, and will maintain a copy of the email in the file, or
- Has at the time of filing an image format or other facsimile of the entire signed document, including the signature page received electronically from the signor, and will maintain a hard copy in the file.

All hearings in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania** will be conducted telephonically.

The clerk's office remains open but is operating under protocols to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The court is encouraging electronic filing of documents to avoid coming to the courthouse. Courthouse visitors, including vendors, contractors, litigants, attorneys, and other members of the public, are required to wear a mask or face covering when in the common or public areas of the courthouse.

The court is also limiting entrance for individuals who have recently traveled to certain regions or have had, or been in close contact with someone who has had COVID-19.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Section 341 meetings scheduled through May 10 have been continued, except for meetings that can proceed through telephonic or other alternative means not requiring any personal appearances.

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania**, all court appearances at hearings shall be made telephonically unless a presiding judge expressly directs otherwise.

Operating hours at all courthouses remain normal.

Court employees and visitors, including vendors, contractors, litigants, attorneys and other members of the public, are required to wear a face mask or face covering when entering, and throughout the duration of their stay at, the court.

The court is limiting entrance for individuals who have recently traveled to certain regions or have had, or been in close contact with someone who has had COVID-19.

All claims shall be filed electronically.

All hand deliveries of documents and payments shall be made using the official court drop boxes at the Pittsburgh and Erie court lobby areas. Instructions for time stamping and tracking deposited items are available next to each drop box and should be strictly followed.

The court issued an order permitting the requirement of obtaining a debtor's original, physical signature to be satisfied in several ways:

- Counsel may secure and maintain the debtor's original, physical signature before filing the document.
- Counsel may obtain the debtor's digital signature via any commercially available digital signature software and maintain a copy of the digitally signed document in the case file.
- Counsel may obtain express written permission from the debtor, including via text message or email, to affix the debtor's signature to the document and maintain a copy in the case file.
- Counsel may obtain, via email, text or fax, an image of the specified signature page showing the debtor's original signature and maintain a copy of the image and its transmission media in the case file.

## **Puerto Rico**

In the **U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico**, all hearings will be conducted via telephone or Skype for Business.

The intake area of the courthouse will be not be open to the public until May 6, as the staff is working remotely.

The court will continue to process mail, and CM/ECF registered users may continue to electronically file new cases and documents. Any nonregistered CM/ECF user needing to file documents who cannot do so by timely mailing the documents to the clerk's office must make advance arrangements for the filing by calling the clerk's office at (787) 977-6000 or emailing [emergencyfilings@prb.uscourts.gov](mailto:emergencyfilings@prb.uscourts.gov).

All Section 341 meetings will be conducted only through telephonic or other alternative means not requiring in-person appearance in cases filed through July 10.

The "first date set for the meeting of creditors" under 11 U.S.C.A. § 341 (a) as used in the Rules shall be the rescheduled date.

The deadlines set under Rules 1007(c), 1017(e)(1), 2002(h), 2015.3(b), 4004(a), 4007(c) and 4008(a) shall be calculated from the rescheduled date.

"The date on which the meeting of creditors is first scheduled to be held" pursuant to 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308(a) shall be the rescheduled date for all continued Chapter 13 Section 341 meetings.

The deadlines under Rule 2003(a) for holding Section 341 meetings are extended to the extent necessary to accommodate the postponement of the meetings.

For a debtor seeking a loss mitigation option, the court has issued an order modifying the automatic stay provisions of 11 U.S.C.A. § 362(a) for the purpose of accommodating the modification process.

The electronic filing of a "verified paper," including a voluntary petition, is permitted if the debtor's attorney:

- Has complied with LBR 5005-4(j).
- Electronically files the verified paper without the original signature in his or her possession provided that such electronic filing constitutes a certification by the debtor's attorney that the debtor has signed it and that the debtor's attorney is in possession of an image of the signature, or
- Obtains the debtor's digital signature via any commercially available digital signature software that provides signature authentication and maintain a copy of the digitally signed document in the debtor's case file.

If the verified paper is filed electronically without the original signature in the attorney's possession, it shall be filed with the signature in image format. Such a filing constitutes a representation and certification that the debtor's attorney transmitted the entire document to the debtor for review and signature, communicated with the debtor regarding the substance and purpose of the document, received the entire document back from the debtor electronically, including the signature page, and received express authorization from the debtor to file. The debtor's attorney must file a certification within 30 days of filing that he or she has received the debtor's original signature and will maintain it in compliance with LBR 5005-4(j).

## Rhode Island

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Rhode Island**, all hearings are being conducted either telephonically or via video using Zoom.gov.

Clerk's office staff are working remotely and continue to be available by telephone, email or live chat.

Pro se filers are permitted to file documents by email, U.S. mail, drop box, or through any other method expressly authorized in advance by the court.

All in-person Section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10 in all Chapter 7, 12, and 13 cases were continued to a later date.

The deadlines set under Rules 1007(c), 1017(e), 1019(1)(B), 2002(h), 2015.3(b), 4002(b)(3) and (4), 4004(a), 4007(c), 4008(a), and 5009(b) will be calculated from the rescheduled date.

The deadlines set under Rule 2003(a) for holding Section 341 meetings are extended to the extent necessary to accommodate the postponement of the Section 341 meetings.

For purposes of 11 U.S.C.A. § 521(a)(2)(B), the phrase "the first date set for the meeting of creditors" will be the rescheduled date.

For purposes of 11 U.S.C.A. § 704(b)(1)(A), the phrase "the date of the first meeting of creditors" will be the rescheduled date.

For purposes of 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308(a) and (b)(1), the phrase "the date on which the meeting of the creditors is first scheduled to be held" will be the rescheduled date.

The court issued an order March 27 temporarily suspending notice requirements set by some of the local rules.

The court has suspended any requirement that a filer secure a signer's original signature before filing or electronically filing documents on the condition that, before filing, the registered user has verified with the signer that the signer has received the entire document to be signed, communicated with the signer regarding the substance and purpose of the signed document(s), and done one of the following:

- Obtained the signer's digital signature via any commercially available digital signature software.
- Obtained express written permission to affix the signer's signature to the document.
- Has at the time of filing an image of the entire signed document, including the signature page received electronically from the signer.

In all three situations, the user must keep a copy of the digitally signed or signed hard copy document in the case file.

## South Carolina

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina** will hold most hearings telephonically through May 31, or longer if necessary.

Court services counters and public intake areas are closed to the public until further notice. The clerk's office will continue to operate, and is available by phone, email and mail.

Pro se parties who need to file documents but cannot do so by delivery of papers to the court may email the documents to ProSeFilings@scb.uscourts.gov or fax them to 803-253-3710.

The court has suspended any requirement that a filer secure a signer's original signature before filing or electronically filing documents on the condition that, before filing, the attorney has either obtained the signer's digital signature via any commercially available digital signature software or obtained express written permission to affix the signer's signature to the document.

## South Dakota

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Dakota**, all contested matters where evidence is not needed and all adversary pretrial conferences will be conducted by telephone.

Evidentiary hearings and adversary trials will be held in person, but these cases will be limited to emergency matters that cannot be submitted on stipulated facts, stipulated issues, affidavits or depositions, and brief through "at least April."

All Section 341 meetings will be held by telephone until further notice.

**Chief U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange of the District of South Dakota** on April 24 issued an order updating visitor restrictions to the federal courthouse. Access is still barred for those who have contracted COVID-19 and have not fully recovered; have had contact within the past 14 days with someone who has contracted the coronavirus; have been directed to self-quarantine by any doctor, medical provider, hospital, or health agency; have a fever, cough, or shortness of breath; or have traveled internationally within the past 14 days.

Everyone who has business requiring them to enter the courthouse must wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth and must practice social distancing.

## Tennessee

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee** will hold all hearings telephonically unless arrangements have been made otherwise with a presiding judge.

The court will continue to be open and staff will continue to be present.

The court has restricted courthouse entry for any person who has been in China, Europe, Iran, Italy, Japan or South Korea within the past 14 days; people who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, health agency or other health care provider; people who have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or people experiencing fever, cough or shortness of breath.

All Chapter 7 and 13 meetings of creditors will be held by telephonic means until further notice.

Until further order of the court, filers may electronically file petitions, statements, schedules, affidavits, and reaffirmation agreements using "s/" signatures, provided that the filer has obtained either the person's digital signature on such document via any commercially available digitally signed document, or express written permission via email or otherwise from the person to affix the person's signature to the document electronically filed with the court.

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Tennessee**, all hearings will be held telephonically.

All continued Chapter 7, 11 and 13 meetings of creditors will be held by phone or online.



The intake counter is closed, and no person-to-person assistance is available until further notice. The public may submit filings or payments through a drop box. The drop box will be checked daily during regular business hours. Filings and payments may also be submitted by mail.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee** has suspended all in-person hearings.

If an evidentiary hearing is required, the parties shall notify the chambers of the presiding judge to request a hearing. The individual presiding judge will determine whether and how to conduct requested hearings.

The courthouse in **Jackson** is closed to the public until further notice.

Until further notice, attorneys and parties with access to CM/ECF are encouraged to use it for the submission of all filings. Unrepresented litigants may submit their filings via email to [Intaketnwd@tnwd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Intaketnwd@tnwd.uscourts.gov), or via U.S. mail to the **Memphis** office only.

All debtors in Chapter 7, 12, and 13 cases are excused from attending in-person meetings of creditors until further notice.

Until further order from the court, an attorney is not required to obtain a person's original physical signature before electronically filing a document that requires such a signature, provided that before filing the attorney obtains the digital signature through any commercially available software, or obtains express written permission from the person to affix their signature to the document.

## Texas

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Texas**, all matters scheduled for hearing or trial on or before May 15 are continued to a date to be determined after that date.

A party who seeks a hearing before the court during the delay period may file an emergency hearing request, and if the request is granted, the court will determine the means by which the hearing will be conducted, including telephonic and videoconferencing technologies.

All divisional offices will remain open for business during the delay period, although teleworking procedures may be implemented for most staff.

The court now provides more options to submit filings electronically, including eSR, ePOC and ECF.

All in-person Chapter 7, 12, and 13 section 341 meetings scheduled through April 10 have been continued until a later date to be determined.

The time periods for a debtor to file a statement of intention with regard to property securing a debt, and for performing such an intention under 11 U.S.C.A. § 521(a)(2), are each extended and the filing requirement shall commence in a case on the date upon which the Section 341 meeting of creditors is first convened therein and the performance requirement is extended to 30 days thereafter.

The time period for a debtor to tender a federal income tax return to the trustee under 11 U.S.C.A. § 521(e)(2)(A) is extended to seven days before the date on which a particular Section 341 meeting is first convened.

The time period within which the court must commence a hearing on a dismissal motion pursuant to 11 U.S.C.A. § 1112(b)(3) is extended to 45 days beyond the termination of the delay period.

The time period within which the court must confirm a proposed plan by a small business debtor under 11 U.S.C.A. § 1129(e) is extended to 45 days beyond the termination of the delay period.

The time period within which a status conference must be conducted in a Chapter 11 case under subchapter V pursuant to 11 U.S.C.A. § 1188(b) is extended to 45 days beyond the termination of the delay period.

The time period within which the court must conclude a confirmation hearing regarding a proposed Chapter 12 plan under 11 U.S.C.A. § 1224 is extended to 45 days beyond the termination of the delay period.

The time period within which the court must conduct a confirmation hearing regarding a proposed Chapter 13 plan under 11 U.S.C.A. § 1324 is extended to a period not later than 45 days from the date upon which the Section 341 meeting of creditors is first convened in that case.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 1007(b)(7) for filing a statement regarding the completion of an instructional course concerning personal financial management is extended and will begin on the date of the Section 341 meeting.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 1017(e)(1) for the trustees to file a motion to dismiss for abuse is extended and shall commence in a case on the date upon which the Section 341 meeting of creditors is first convened.

The initial Chapter 11 Related Entity Financial Report shall be filed seven days before the rescheduled date for the Section 341 meeting.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 4004(a) for the filing of any objection to the debtor's discharge is extended and shall commence on the date of the Section 341 meeting.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 4007(c) for the filing of any complaint to determine the dischargeability of a debt under 11 U.S.C.A. § 523(c) is extended and shall commence on the date upon which the Section 341 meeting of creditors is first convened.

The 60-day deadline set under Rule 4008(a) for the filing of a reaffirmation agreement is extended and shall commence on the date upon which the Section 341 meeting of creditors is first convened.

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas**, hearings during May will be conducted by videoconference or telephonically.

For trials in adversary proceedings and contested matters requiring lengthy hearings, parties should contact the appropriate courtroom deputy. Each judge will handle such matters on a case-by-case basis.

The court's requirement that attorneys receive and maintain "wet signatures" on documents, such as petitions, schedules, statements of financial affairs, plans, and other similar documents, is suspended until June 1.

Until that date, documents requiring a client's or other third party's signature may either be received and maintained in "wet signature form" in accordance with prior practice, received by facsimile, email, text, or photo transmission from the signer, or signed using a commercially available electronic signing technology that maintains an audit trail and other security features to ascertain the authentic identity of the signer.

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas**, hearings will mostly be held electronically through May 31.

The clerk's office remains open, but with limited staff.

Personal attendance will be permitted at certain hearings taking place in divisions with courthouses open to the public. Attorneys may attend Chapter 13 panel hearings; all others must use audio or video conferencing.

No more than 12 people, excluding judges and staff, are allowed in a courtroom at one time. No party may have more than three attendees total, including attorneys, clients and witnesses. No more than two people may sit at each counsel's table. No paper exhibits are allowed.

All court-imposed deadlines, all deadlines imposed by local rule, and all deadlines imposed by the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure are tolled for the period during which the court's emergency protocols are in place. The tolled deadlines are computed by adding the number of days in the protocol period to the original deadline.

The tolling period terminated May 4. It lasted 41 days in the **Houston, Galveston** and **Brownsville** divisions and 39 days in all other divisions.

Signatures may either be received and maintained in "wet signature form" in accordance with prior practice, or electronically signed utilizing a commercially available electronic signing technology.

All court proceedings held in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas** will be conducted by telephone conference until further notice.

All Chapter 7, 11, 12, and 13 meetings of creditors will be conducted by telephone.

Signatures may be received and maintained either in "wet signature form" as per current practice or electronically signed utilizing commercially available digital signature technology (such as DocuSign or Adobe Digital Signature) that maintains an audit trail allowing the attorney to obtain the identification of the signer's computer device from the commercial provider.

## Utah

All matters scheduled through May 31 in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Utah** will be conducted by telephone.

Chapter 7 and 11 cases that were originally scheduled between March 16 and April 13 have been rescheduled to a later date.

For all continued Section 341 meetings in Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 cases, the deadlines established in Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4004 and 4007 are extended so that the 60-day time limit in those rules begins to run on the date of the rescheduled Section 341 meeting date.

## Vermont

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Vermont**, all scheduled hearings and conferences will be conducted telephonically pending further order of the court.

The **Burlington** courthouse will remain open to support the hearings of both the district and bankruptcy courts, but will operate with limited staff and resources.

The **Rutland** courthouse will open only for the purpose of holding an emergency court hearing.

The clerk's offices are closed to the public.

All Section 341 meetings of creditors scheduled through April 10 were postponed to a later date.

The deadlines under Rules 1007, 1017(e) 4004(a), 4007(c) and 4008(a) will run from the newest rescheduled Section 341 meeting date.

The deadline under 11 U.S.C.A. § 1308(a) for Chapter 13 debtors to file prepetition tax returns is extended to the day before the rescheduled Section 341 meeting.

The deadline under Rule 2015.3(b) for the trustee or debtor in possession to file a financial report regarding each entity that is not a publicly traded corporation or a debtor in a bankruptcy case and in which the estate holds a substantial or controlling interest is extended to seven days before the rescheduled Section 341 meeting.

The deadlines under Rule 2003(c) for holding Section 341 meetings are extended from 60 to 112 days after the order for relief in a Chapter 7 liquidation or a chapter 11 reorganization case, from 35 to 60 days after the order for relief in a Chapter 12 case, and from 50 to 60 days after the order for relief in a Chapter 13 case.

## Virginia

In the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia**, all nonevidentiary hearings will be held remotely via teleconference using CourtSolutions through May 31 in **Alexandria** and **Richmond**, and through June 10 in **Norfolk** and **Newport News**.

Clerk's office public areas in all divisions are closed until further notice.

In light of the easing of Virginia's stay-at-home order, the court announced that all individuals intending to appear in person in the courthouses must wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth continuously when in public areas and shared common spaces. Social distancing is required within the courthouse whenever possible.

Hearings in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia** will be conducted telephonically through June 10.

The court will not hold in-person evidentiary hearings during this time, and these will be rescheduled on a case-by-case basis. In an emergency, the court will attempt to utilize videoconferencing where practicable and necessary.

The public counters of the clerk's office are closed to the public until further notice.

The court has installed drop boxes in the federal courthouses in **Abingdon**, **Charlottesville**, **Danville**, **Harrisonburg**, **Lynchburg** and **Roanoke**, allowing litigants to date stamp their filings and securely submit them without entering the clerk's office.

The court has suspended its prohibition against pro se individuals filing pleadings or papers electronically.

All Section 341 meetings will be conducted by telephonic means until further notice.

The court has suspended the requirement that an attorney secure the debtor's original signature before electronically filing documents if the attorney has met certain conditions before filing. The attorney must obtain the debtor's digital signature via

any commercially available digital signature software that provides signature authentication and maintain a copy of the digitally signed documents in the debtor's case file. Alternatively, the attorney must obtain express written permission from the debtor to affix the their signature to the documents and maintain a copy of the signature in the debtor's case file.

## Washington

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Washington**'s facilities in **Spokane** and **Yakima** are closed. The ePOC system is available to creditors for claims, amendments and withdrawals.

The court will continue to hold hearings by telephone. All Section 341 meetings are being held by telephone.

All Section 341 meetings in cases filed through July 10 in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington** will be conducted by telephone or other means not requiring in-person appearances.

Courthouses in **Seattle** and **Tacoma** are closed to the public until July 31 under an order from the District Court.

There are no face-to-face services at the clerk's office. Pleadings and documents can be left in a drop box in the lobby of the Seattle and Tacoma courthouses. Documents and payments can be mailed to the clerk's office.

All scheduled nonevidentiary hearings will be heard by telephone unless directed by the individual judge.

## West Virginia

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of West Virginia** remains open but with limitations.

All in-person court appearances have been suspended until further notice. Trials and evidentiary hearings that are currently scheduled will be rescheduled.

The court will convene nonevidentiary hearings by telephone.

All Section 341 meetings will be conducted by telephone.

Filings are still being processed by mail and via the case management/electronic case filings system. The clerk's offices in Clarksburg and Wheeling are open by appointment.

In-person hearings in the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of West Virginia** will now be held by telephone.

**U.S. District Judge Thomas E. Johnston** has closed the U.S. courthouses in the district to the public through June 30.

The U.S. Trustee for the District of West Virginia ordered all Section 341 meetings to be conducted by telephone. The call-in number and access code are different for each trustee.

The only open West Virginia bankruptcy court is in **Charleston**.

**U.S. District Judge Frank W. Volk** issued an order March 17 that extended, by 60 days, deadlines for the U.S. trustee to file a motion to dismiss for abuse, a party in interest to object to entry of discharge and a party in interest to file a complaint to obtain a determination of the dischargeability of any debt.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Frank W. Volk entered an order temporarily modifying the requirement that original signatures appear on bankruptcy petitions and schedules. The requirement may be satisfied in several ways:

- Counsel may secure and maintain the debtor's original signature before filing the document, as presently required.
- Counsel may secure the debtor's digital signature via any commercially available digital signature software.
- Counsel may obtain express written permission from the debtor to affix the debtor's signature to the document.
- Counsel may obtain an image of the specified signature page showing debtor's original signature via email, text message or fax transmission and maintain a copy of the image and its transmission media in the case file.

## Wisconsin

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin** is closed to the public until at least June 1. All hearings will be conducted by telephone, including some evidentiary hearings.

Judges will reschedule, for a date after June 1, pending evidentiary hearings that are not time-sensitive or not conducive to being conducted by telephone or video conference.

Documents can be filed electronically, deposited in the drop box on the east side of the building or mailed. Debtors who are not represented by an attorney can file documents by email to [webteam\\_wieb@wied.uscourts.gov](mailto:webteam_wieb@wied.uscourts.gov).

The documents must be in PDF form and the debtor must use his or her own email address to file.

All Section 341 meetings will take place by telephone.

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Wisconsin** will hold all hearings either by teleconference or videoconference until at least May 30. The courthouse remains open to the public but with some limitations.

The U.S. Trustee for the Western District of Wisconsin requests that all debtors and debtor attorneys appear for Section 341 meetings by telephone until July 10.

The clerk's offices in **Eau Claire** and **Madison** are closed to the public and paper documents will not be accepted in person. Documents may be filed using the drop box in the courthouse lobby.

Check or money order payments will be accepted by mail or in the courthouse drop box. Cash payments are not being accepted at this time.

The requirement that attorneys receive and maintain "wet" signatures on documents such as petitions, schedules and plans is suspended until May 31.

The electronic filing of such documents without the original wet signature in the attorney's possession constitutes a certification by the debtor's attorney that the attorney received express authorization from the debtor to file the document; the debtor has

signed the document; and at the time of filing, the debtor's attorney possesses an electronic image or other facsimile of the document, including the signature page.

The debtor's attorney must file a certification within 30 days of filing an electronically signed document that he or she has received the debtor's original wet signature.

## Wyoming

The **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Wyoming** will be open to the public, but only from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. until further notice. All hearings are being conducted by telephone or video. No parties are allowed to appear in person at this time.

Section 341 meetings will continue as scheduled, but debtors are required to appear via Skype. If the debtor cannot appear via Skype, the meeting will be continued to a later date. Creditors may participate by telephone or Skype.

**U.S. District Judge Scott W. Skavdahl** issued an order May 4 that restricts who can enter the courthouse during the coronavirus pandemic.

No person may enter the District of Wyoming courthouse if they meet any of the following criteria:

- They have, since April 1, been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or someone identified as probable for COVID-19.
- They have been asked to self-quarantine by any physician, hospital or health care agency.
- They have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or found to be probable for the COVID-19 virus.
- They are experiencing or exhibiting the symptoms of COVID-19, including a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache, chills, muscle pain and/or new loss of taste or smell.

## State courts

### Alabama

The **Alabama Supreme Court** issued an order May 13 about the resumption of in-person hearings.

Jury trials remain suspended through Sept. 14, the order said.

In-person court hearings in circuit, district, juvenile, municipal and probate courts resumed May 15.

In order to determine whether to recommence in-person hearings, the presiding circuit judge has been authorized to adopt procedures that will implement the requirements and recommendations of the "Safer at Home Order" amendment Gov. Kay Ivey issued May 8.

Presiding circuit judges may extend the restriction of in-person proceedings beyond May 15 provided that a written order is entered and forwarded to the chief justice and that it does not extend past Aug. 15.

The **Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building** reopened to the general public June 3.

## Alaska

**Alaska Chief Justice Joel H. Bolger** issued Order No. 8144 on May 11 to update the public concerning grand jury proceedings, jury trials and nonjury proceedings.

Grand jury proceedings resumed June 1, subject to restrictions imposed by presiding judges. The time limit for preliminary examination under Alaska Crim. R. 5(e) has been extended through July 31.

Due to the lack of courtrooms designed to accommodate proper social distancing between a grand jury, witnesses, interpreters, clerks and prosecutors, Justice Bolger issued Order No. 8148 on May 20 regarding grand jury proceedings.

A presiding judge may allow witnesses and interpreters to appear for grand jury proceedings remotely. The judge may also allow the grand jury to meet in two or more courtrooms in a location that is connected remotely.

Nonjury criminal and civil proceedings resumed June 1, subject to presiding judge restrictions.

Jury trials remain suspended through at least July 6. The period of the delay starting March 16 will be excluded in computing the time for trial under Alaska Crim. R. 45(d). When the suspension is lifted, the time for trial will be tolled for the time needed to permit orderly transition and scheduling.

Court proceedings will be conducted with strict adherence to social distancing, face coverings and other requirements imposed by mandates, orders and bulletins.

The bar examination scheduled for July 28 and 29 will be rescheduled.

The state issued a temporary statewide bail schedule March 27 that applies to all arrests made after March 27. The schedule is as follows:

The bail for outstanding and unserved arrest warrants is modified to own recognizance release for charges governed by the bail schedule.

The schedule does not apply to felony offenses.

A defendant charged with a domestic violence crime or violation of a condition for release in an alleged domestic violence crime shall be held without bail until the defendant appears before a judicial officer within the time set by the applicable law.

A defendant charged with second-degree stalking shall be held until the defendant appears before a judicial officer within the time set by applicable law.

A defendant charged with a misdemeanor shall be released on their own recognizance subject to certain conditions, including obeying all court orders, obeying all laws, appearing in court when ordered and not having contact with any alleged victim.



Police officers making an arrest of a person eligible for an own recognizance release under the order are encouraged to issue a summons in lieu of arrest, when appropriate and at the discretion of the arresting officer.

## Arizona

**Arizona Chief Justice Robert Brutinel** on May 20 issued Administrative Order No. 2020-79, which says all courts may begin transitioning to in-person proceedings in phases beginning June 1, to the extent that it can be done safely.

The current phase, phase zero, suspends empaneling of new petit juries. It also limits in-person contact by permitting audio and/or video hearings.

Jury trials resumed June 15 under phase one, subject to the presiding superior judge's approval.

During phase one, courts must follow the Centers for Disease Control guidelines on social distancing, require face coverings to be worn in the courthouse and appropriately prioritize case processing.

Courts may expand case disposition capacity using retired judges and judges pro tempore and reassigning judges from other assignments.

Under phase two, which does not yet have an effective date, the scheduling of in-person court proceedings can resume, while limiting the projected number of visitors to a courthouse. Courts must continue to follow CDC guidelines for social distancing and limit the number of people in a court event to 30, unless authorized by judicial leadership.

Phase three will allow the scheduling of in-person court proceedings and on-site services to fully resume, while limiting the projected number of people in a courthouse.

Also under phase three, courts may relax screening protocols for participants and visitors, including the wearing of face coverings.

Under phase four, courts will return to normal operations with no restrictions.

To reduce the number of citizens summoned for jury duty, until Dec. 31, procedural rules have been modified to afford litigants two peremptory strikes for potential jurors in civil and felony cases tried in superior courts. Litigants have been afforded one peremptory strike per side in all misdemeanor cases and civil cases tried in limited jurisdiction courts. The modification does not apply to capital murder cases.

Proceedings in all appellate, superior, justice, juvenile and municipal courts may be held by teleconference or videoconference.

Judicial leadership should limit in-person contact by using available technologies, including teleconferencing, videoconferencing, emails and text messages and alternative means of filing.

The period between March 18 and Aug. 1 is excluded from the calculation of time under rule provisions and statutory procedures requiring the holding of a court proceeding within a specific time period.

Pursuant to Rule 8, a judge may extend this exclusion of time in criminal cases for good cause.

The time for conducting preliminary hearings for in-custody defendants and probation revocation arraignments has been extended to 20 days from an initial appearance that occurs through July 3.

Some exclusions from this calculation of time include proceedings for people in custody, domestic violence proceedings and juvenile detention hearings.

In **Pima County**, victims of abuse, stalking and harassment can complete most protection order requests by telephone.

Applicants must start the protection order process online using AZPOINT.

After completing the application, the applicant will receive a reference number and will then need to call the clerk for the **Superior Court, Justice Court** or **Tucson City Court** Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The **Maricopa County Superior Court** issued a March 27 administrative order that suspended work furlough and work-release programs to reduce the risk of participants being exposed to the coronavirus and introducing it into the jail population.

## Arkansas

**Arkansas Chief Justice John Dan Kemp** issued an order May 8 that says all divisions of state courts shall resume the conducting of hearings beginning May 18.

"Courts shall be operational," the order said.

Hearings may be conducted via video conferencing, audio conferencing or in-person proceedings, at the discretion of the presiding judge.

The order also continues the suspension of time requirements under Ark. R. Civ. P. 4(i).

Proceedings that do not require in-person appearances are not suspended and may continue at the discretion of the presiding judge.

Courthouses and courtrooms must comply with guidelines announced by the **Arkansas Department of Health** regarding public gatherings. Currently, gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people.

Alternative indoor venues for jury trials such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, civic centers or national guard armories may be used if a courtroom cannot accommodate social distancing or public gathering restrictions and guidelines.

Circuit judges may conduct civil jury trials with six jurors if all parties consent.

Any summonses for a person to participate in jury panels have been suspended through June 30.

## California

**The California Judicial Council** met March 28 and authorized **Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye's** statewide emergency orders to extend statutory deadlines for preliminary hearings, arraignments and last day trials in civil and criminal proceedings.

On March 23, Justice Cantil-Sakauye issued a statewide order to suspend all jury trials in the superior courts for 60 days. Trials may be conducted at an earlier date upon finding of good cause shown or by using remote technologies.

The time period to begin criminal and civil trials has also been extended by 60 days.

On April 29, Justice Cantil-Sakauye extended the suspension for another 30 days. A total extension of 90 days will be calculated from the last date on which the trial could have been conducted between March 16 and June 15.

Justice Cantil-Sakauye issued a guidance to all superior court presiding judges March 16 to authorize requests for court holidays under Cal. Gov. Code § 68115.

State law allows for local courts to request holidays to recalculate filing deadlines, extend temporary restraining orders, extend time for criminal trials and more.

On June 10, Justice Cantil-Sakauye issued an order to rescind a previous order.

As of June 20, the order extending the time in which a defendant charged with a felony must be taken before a magistrate is rescinded.

The Judicial Council voted to end, as of June 20, the temporary bail schedule that set presumptive bail to \$0 for people accused of low-level crimes.

The Judicial Council issued a new rule May 29 that will restart statutes of limitations on set dates. The rule suspends from April 6 to Oct. 1 the statutes of limitations and repose for civil actions that exceed 180 days. It also suspends from April 6 to Aug. 3 the statutes of limitations and repose for civil actions that are 180 days or less.

The California bar examination scheduled for July has been postponed to Sept. 9 and 10. The State Bar of California has been directed to make every effort to administer the exam online with remote proctoring.

## Colorado

**Colorado Chief Justice Nathan B. Coats** issued an order June 15 precluding any person from being summoned by state courts for jury service before Aug. 3, subject to a waiver.

To secure the constitutional and statutory rights to a jury trial, a chief judge may seek a waiver of this prohibition if the jury trial is consistent with health guidelines and local executive orders concerning personal contact and assembly.

Justice Coats ordered May 5 that state courts will continue to operate on an emergency basis until a further order.

The **Colorado Court of Appeals** has ordered all scheduled oral arguments to be conducted remotely using WebEx.

Each jurisdiction has been posting materials on the court's website with information for jurors, litigants and probationers about their protocols for court appearances.

The **Denver County 2nd Judicial District** has required all people seeking access to a facility to wear a face covering, without holes, that covers the nose and mouth.

Criminal proceedings will continue to be heard. All district court criminal divisions will be virtual courtrooms with appearances being held via WebEx.

## Connecticut

The **Connecticut Judicial Branch** initiated a plan April 14 to resolve more cases by expanding the scope of its work to process, review and/or resolve certain civil and family matters remotely.

On May 7, the judicial branch announced it will resume its daily schedule of trial management conferences, status conferences and civil pretrials remotely beginning May 18. Events scheduled between March 23 and May 18 were rescheduled.

The **Middlesex Judicial District Courthouse** in **Middletown**, **Rockville's Geographical Area No. 19 Courthouse** and the **Litchfield Judicial District Courthouse** at **Torrington** resumed partial operations June 8.

Juvenile court matters resumed in the **Middletown**, **New Britain** and **Torrington** courthouses June 8. Cases from **Waterbury Juvenile Court** will go to Torrington and cases from **Waterford Juvenile Court** will go to Middletown.

Cases from the **Geographical Area Courthouse No. 12** in **Manchester** are being transferred to the Rockville Courthouse until further notice.

"The judicial branch we left behind as this crisis emerged will not be the same judicial branch we return to," **Chief Court Administrator Patrick L. Carroll III** said. "Masks, social distancing, hand sanitizers, limitations on the number of people allowed in courtrooms and courthouses, and enhanced sanitization protocols are all going to be with us for the foreseeable future."

On June 4, the judicial branch announced an expansion of operations in the coming weeks.

All open courthouse locations will be open to the public Monday through Friday, starting the week of June 15. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

The **Danbury**, **Milford**, **Stamford** and **Danielson** courthouses will be open to the public starting the week of June 29, following the hours above.

Open courthouses will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday starting the week of July 6.

Judges started using Microsoft Teams to conduct pretrial hearings June 8.

For civil matters, the judicial branch believes judges and clerks will be able to act on certain matters, including completing and issuing decisions in previously argued or submitted cases, and processing other matters on filed papers, rather than having parties appear in court.

For family matters, approval of joint petitions for nonadversarial divorce and the entering of court orders regarding approval of temporary agreement requests may be addressed remotely, without a court appearance by the parties.

Jury service has been suspended until further notice.

The **Connecticut Bar Examining Committee** announced that the state's bar examination scheduled for July 28 and 29 has been postponed until Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

Applications that were accepted during the initial filing period will be automatically transferred.

Applications from graduates from the **University of Connecticut School of Law, Quinnipiac University School of Law, Western New England University School of Law, Yale Law School** or **Massachusetts School of Law** will be accepted from June 1 to June 12.

Between June 15 and June 30, applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until 500 applications have been received.

The **Connecticut Supreme Court** and appellate courts instituted daily hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. starting March 31.

The Supreme Court will hear cases June 10, 12 and 22 via videoconferencing.

The appellate court will hear cases June 15, 17, 19, 29 and July 1 via videoconferencing.

All foreclosure sales previously scheduled for June and through July 18 have been canceled.

## Delaware

**Delaware Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz Jr.** on June 5 extended the judicial emergency and accepted the Courts Reopening Committee's recommendation of a phased approach to opening judicial facilities.

Phase one began June 8. This phase allowed a number of proceedings, including Supreme Court oral arguments in the **Dover** courthouse, civil pretrial conferences, Chancery Court hearings and routine criminal motions in superior, common pleas and family courts that do not require a defendant's presence or may be conducted by video.

Phase two commenced June 15. All state courthouses opened to the public under this phase. Face coverings must be worn by all individuals and a 6-foot distance must be kept from individuals who do not occupy the same household.

Additional proceedings, including nonjury criminal and civil trials of nonincarcerated defendants, grand jury proceedings and civil hearings that require witness or client participation, may commence under phase two.

Court staffing increased to no more than 50% under this phase. Other personnel shall work remotely.

Civil and criminal jury trials will resume under phase three, which will commence at a time to be determined by the chief justice.

Phase four will also commence at a later date as determined by the chief justice. Under phase four, criminal jury trials that require a large jury pool, contempt of court proceedings and restitution hearings will resume.

Court staffing will increase to 100% under phase four.

Until phase four, courts should limit live proceedings to only those that can be accommodated under the social distancing requirements and that are necessary for the effective presentation of the matter.

Courts should continue to consider using technology in legal arguments or evidence presentation.

Speedy trial time requirements are tolled during the judicial emergency.

Deadlines for court rules and state or local statutes and ordinances applicable to the judiciary that expire between March 23 and June 30 have been extended through July 1. Statutes of limitations and repose that would expire between March 23 and June 30 have also been extended through July 1.

In family court, ex parte protection-from-abuse orders can be extended beyond 30 days, but cannot exceed 45 days. Temporary injunctions and interim guardianships that expire between March 23 and June 13 have been extended until July 1.

The Delaware bar exam scheduled for July 27-29 has been rescheduled for Sept. 9-11.

## District of Columbia

The **District of Columbia Court of Appeals** building is closed to the public until June 30, with only judges and court staff allowed inside. Oral arguments for June will be held remotely.

The court is no longer tolling or suspending filing deadlines. Parties have until June 30 to submit any filings due on or before May 31.

The **District of Columbia Superior Court** will reschedule all nonpriority matters scheduled before June 19.

The criminal division will continue to operate remotely by holding hearings via telephone or videoconference from the Central Cellblock, the D.C. Jail, St. Elizabeths Hospital and the community, except for Courtroom C10.

The criminal division will not be conducting nonjury or jury trials until further order.

Certain status hearings, trials and nondetained preliminary hearings scheduled before June 19 will be continued to a future date.

The court will still hear felony presentments and misdemeanor arraignments other than citation arraignments, juvenile initial hearings and petitions for writ of habeas corpus, initial hearings and requests of removal in neglect and abuse matters, and emergency matters.

Deadlines and time limits in statutes, court rules, and standing and other orders issued by the criminal division of the court that would otherwise expire are suspended, tolled and extended pending further court order.

Existing temporary protection orders and civil protection orders will remain in effect and extended through June 19, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

The District of Columbia Marriage Bureau is processing marriage license applications remotely. The D.C. Superior Court is now accepting requests for videoconference weddings.

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals announced June 10 that in lieu of the September Uniform Bar Exam, the court will administer a remote D.C. bar exam Oct. 5 and 6 using materials prepared by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The exam will have fewer questions than the UBE, but will cover the same range of topics. Applicants are required to provide their own computer with webcam and internet access.

## Florida

**Florida Chief Justice Charles T. Canady** issued an order May 4 that suspended all grand jury proceedings, jury selection proceedings and criminal and civil jury trials through July 2.

All time periods in the speedy trial procedure in criminal and juvenile courts remain suspended through July 6.

Time periods for people arrested for first-degree murder remain suspended through July 2.

**Justice Canady** issued an order March 27 that suspended the requirements for in-person visitation involving a parent and child, as well as for visitation between siblings or between children and other family members and nonrelatives, unless all parties and the caregiver agree that the visitation can take place in a way that does not pose a health threat.

Visitation should be conducted electronically with video communication or by telephone if video communication is not feasible.

"We will keep our justice system operating, postpone matters that can wait until later and observe social distancing requirements adopted by public health authorities," Justice Canady said in a press release.

## Georgia

**Georgia Chief Justice Harold D. Melton** extended the declaration of a statewide judicial emergency for all courts and clerks' offices until July 12.

All civil and criminal jury trials will continue to be suspended. Courts are also barred from summoning and impaneling new trial and grand juries.

A task force is developing plans to allow the safe resumption of jury and grand jury proceedings. The guidance is expected to be available in July, but it is unlikely that jury proceedings will resume before August, at the earliest.

Justice Melton's order also outlines a plan to allow additional cases to move forward by reimposing, as of July 14, all legal deadlines on litigants in criminal and civil cases, except for deadlines related to grand jury proceedings and jury trials.

For cases pending before March 14, litigants will have the same amount of time to file or act after July 14 that they had March 14.

For cases filed between March 14 and July 13, the deadline time will start running July 14.

Normal deadlines will apply for cases filed on or after July 14.

The 122 days between March 14 and July 14, or any time during that period, in which a statute of limitations would have run will be excluded from the calculation of that statute of limitations.

Courts have discretion to conduct in-person proceedings if they are in compliance with public health guidelines and constitutional requirements, except for jury trials and most grand jury proceedings.

Chief judges of judicial circuits may impose more restrictive orders if required by local conditions.

The **Supreme Court of Georgia** issued an order March 27 to allow for the use of telephone and video conferences in pretrial and post-trial civil proceedings in probate, municipal, magistrate and superior courts. Conferences shall apply with applicable constitutional requirements.

An order to use telephone and video conferences in preadjudication and post-adjudication proceedings in juvenile court has also been issued.

The July 2020 bar examination has been rescheduled to Sept. 9 and 10.

## Guam

The **Supreme Court of Guam** issued Administrative Order No. ADM20-260 on June 3.

According to the order, the Supreme Court and **Superior Court of Guam** will continue to conduct business.

The **Guam Judicial Center** in **Hagåtña** and the **Northern Court Satellite** in **Dededo** are open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for limited transactions, including traffic citation, bail, restitution and fines and fees payments.

Essential operations shall continue at the Guam Judicial Center in Hagåtña.

Criminal and civil jury trials scheduled before Aug. 1 have been postponed until further order. No event shall be heard before Aug. 1.

No new grand juries shall be empaneled before July 2.

Face coverings must be worn by anyone entering a **Judiciary of Guam** facility for any purpose. They must also maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others in the courthouse, unless they reside in the same household.

Temporary restraining orders, injunctions, civil protection orders or stays in any criminal or civil matter that were set to expire by March 23 shall automatically be extended under the same terms for 14 days or up to July 1, whichever is longer, unless the presiding judge or judge who issued the order terminates or modifies the temporary restraining order, injunction or stay.

All filing deadlines — including statutory filing deadlines — shall be tolled from March 27 until June 29, unless otherwise specifically ordered by the court.

Any court rule that blocks the court's ability to use technology to limit or eliminate in-person contact to conduct court business, subject to constitutional requirements, has been suspended through Dec. 31. The Judiciary of Guam has secured Zoom licenses for court hearings and proceedings.

The July bar examination has been postponed to Sept. 9 and 10.

## Hawaii

**Hawaii Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald** on June 15 issued an order concerning people entering judiciary facilities.

No person may enter a judiciary facility if they have a fever, cough, shortness of breath or respiratory illness symptoms; traveled outside of Hawaii in the past 14 days; or had close contact with a person who has or is suspected to have COVID-19.

Those who have traveled inter-island before June 16 are subject to the 14-day self-quarantine mandate required by **Gov. David Ige's** Eighth Supplementary Order.



Justice Recktenwald increased the use of remote proceedings in an order May 28.

Oral arguments in the **Intermediate Court of Appeals** and **Supreme Court**, proceedings in criminal and civil matters in circuit court and proceedings involving pre- and post-decree motions in family court may be conducted by telephone or video conference.

On May 22, Justice Recktenwald ordered the postponement of civil, criminal and family jury trials until after June 30, unless otherwise ordered by the chief judge of the respective circuit. His order did not affect any directives regarding nonjury trials.

Grand jury proceedings could recommence as of June 1.

State district courts on Oahu reopened June 8 to those with official court business and business with the Traffic Violations Bureau and Legal Documents Branch..

Traffic infraction cases are being held via Zoom videoconferencing or by telephone.

The state bar examination scheduled for July 28 and 29 has been postponed until Sept. 9 and 10.

## Idaho

**Chief Justice Roger Burdick of the Idaho Supreme Court** issued an order April 22 saying no jury trials will begin before Aug. 3 in criminal cases and before Oct. 5 in civil cases.

Trials on petitions to terminate parental rights and felony sentencing hearings in which the possible penalty includes a life sentence will be held in person subject to certain safety protocols.

All other court proceedings will be held remotely by teleconferencing or videoconferencing.

An audio recording for all court proceedings must be created in For The Record or Zoom software.

The 21-day preliminary hearing requirement for out-of-custody defendants has been waived.

If a deadline has been set by a court order or rule and the last day for filing any document, holding a hearing, or doing any other matter in a court falls on or between March 26 and April 30, the time for filing or conducting the matter in court is extended until May 1. This includes filing notices of appeal, petitions for post-conviction relief and responsive pleadings.

All hearings for May will be conducted using Zoom videoconferencing.

Hearings scheduled for June in all **Supreme Court** and **Court of Appeals** matters will be conducted via Zoom videoconferencing.

## Illinois

The **Supreme Court of Illinois** issued an order April 7 that said the chief judges of each circuit may continue trials until further order of the court.

When jury trials resume, the presiding judge is authorized to add an additional jury term to ease case backlog and to comply with speedy-trial requirements.

The **Illinois 6th Judicial Circuit Court**, consisting of **Champaign, DeWitt, Douglas, Macon, Moultrie and Piatt** counties, said in a May 26 order that the presiding judge in each county will decide the priority of jury trials and the courtroom or space to accommodate jury trials, voir dire and juror deliberations. The presiding judge should implement seating restrictions to allow for personal distancing and requiring parties to wear face coverings when not speaking.

The **Illinois 10th Circuit Court**, consisting of **Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark and Tazewell** counties, reopened for limited business June 1. Jury trials for June in Peoria are limited to one potential trial per week. In-custody criminal cases have priority over other cases and all other trials will be continued.

In Marshall, Putnam, Stark and Tazewell, jury trials will proceed upon approval of the presiding judge.

Grand jury proceedings will go on in Tazewell, but not Peoria.

**Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans** for the **Cook County Circuit Court** on May 28 said all matters have been rescheduled and continued for 30 days from the currently scheduled court date or a date not more than 30 days after July 6, whichever is later. If the 30th day falls on a weekend or a court holiday, it will be continued to the next business day.

A previous order expanded videoconferencing for all necessary or emergency court proceedings during this time.

**Chicago** branch courts at 5555 W. Grand Ave., 727 E. 111th St. and 3150 W. Flournoy St. remain closed until further notice. Proceedings normally heard at those courthouses will be heard at the **Leighton Criminal Court Building**.

In-person traffic and misdemeanor cases are continued until further court order.

## Indiana

Under a May 29 order from the **Indiana Supreme Court**, all laws, rules and procedures setting time limits for speedy trials in juvenile and criminal proceedings, public and mental health matters, judgments, support and other orders in criminal and civil matters are tolled through Aug. 14.

The prohibition on issuing or serving writs of attachment, civil bench warrants or body attachments will expire at 12:01 a.m. on Aug. 15, unless further extended by the court.

Deadlines for trial courts to resume jury trials or submit status reports under previous Administrative Rule 17 orders for trials courts have been vacated.

Jury trials should not resume until at least July 1.

Guidelines for resuming court operations were also issued May 13.

The Supreme Court issued an order April 22 that authorized livestream of trial court proceedings on public platforms, except for hearings that are confidential by law.

**Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb** has closed state government offices to the public, including the Indiana Statehouse and Government Center campuses.

The Supreme Court ordered the **Indiana State Board of Law Examiners** to conduct a one-day bar examination administered remotely July 28. The exam will consist of the Indiana Essay Examination and a series of short-answer questions on topics tested on the Multistate Bar Examination.

## Iowa

The **Iowa Supreme Court** issued an order on judicial branch operations.

Criminal and civil nonjury trials, non-delinquency juvenile matters, nonjury traffic proceedings, in-person appellate oral arguments, Chapter 36 professional regulation hearings and forcible entry and detainers proceedings will resume July 13.

Nonjury trials and non-delinquency juvenile matters may commence before July 13 in counties that have courthouses that are open to the public and if the recommended COVID-19 safety protocols established by the state court administration are met.

Jury trials are scheduled to resume Sept. 14.

The court continues to encourage the use of videoconferencing and telephone to conduct civil court business when feasible. District courts may conduct civil nonjury trials this way if the parties have consented.

On May 22, the court issued a prioritization order to establish what cases and duties judges, magistrates, clerks and other employees should put first.

Cases are prioritized in the following order:

- Emergency matters including criminal warrants, dependent adult abuse, relief from domestic violence and elder abuse.
- Criminal trials with the highest priority to criminal cases in which the defendant is in custody and has not waived the right to a speedy trial.
- Other trials based on facts and circumstances of each case.

For all original notices to be served in accordance with Iowa R. of Civ. P. 1.302, 1.305 or 1.306, if the deadline falls between March 23 and July 13, the serving party is granted through July 13 to complete service.

The court finds good cause to extend the speedy-trial deadline. In any case in which an indictment or information has been filed before Sept. 14, the 90-day deadline shall be extended to 120 days, with Sept. 14 as day one.

Various pretrial criminal proceedings may be conducted via videoconference or telephone through Dec. 31.

Magistrates and other judicial officers may conduct initial appearances by telephone or videoconference through Aug. 3.

The Iowa bar examination will be administered as scheduled July 28-29.

## Kansas

**Kansas Chief Justice Marla Luckert** issued order 2020-PR-076 on June 16 regarding appellate and district court operations.

All hearings should be conducted remotely, if possible. Otherwise, appropriate social distancing requirements must be met.

Jury trials remain limited. "No jury trials shall proceed unless necessary to preserve a constitutional speedy trial right," the order said.

Staff may return to courthouses only when certain conditions are met. These conditions include having a plan developed with local health officials for appropriate screenings and ensuring personal protective equipment is available for all staff and court participants.

Steps must be taken to honor the appropriate social distancing in offices, courtrooms or other parts of a building being used for a court proceeding. Public areas that cannot be adapted for appropriate social distancing must be closed.

Justice Luckert also signed order 2020-PR-075, which extends the suspension of statutory time requirements and allows courts to use audio and video for hearings under Order 2020-PR-057 and Kan. Stat. Ann. § 22-3402.

Essential functions, including issuing warrants; determining probable cause for someone arrested with a warrant; conducting certain juvenile hearings, temporary custody orders and emergency protection-from-abuse orders; and conducting hearings and issuing orders of isolation or quarantines, must be carried out until further order.

## Kentucky

An April 14 order from the **Kentucky Supreme Court** said all judicial facilities will be closed to in-person services until May 31, except for attorneys and parties who need to attend emergency hearings, and persons seeking emergency protective orders, interpersonal protective orders and emergency custody orders. All participants to a proceeding, including parties and attorneys, must be allowed to participate remotely.

Courts on June 1 shall resume hearing criminal and civil matters using telephone and video technology, a May 15 order said.

If a judge determines an in-person appearance is required, no more than a third of the courtroom's occupancy capacity will be allowed in the courtroom. Attendance will be limited to attorneys, parties and other necessary persons.

People who fall in the high-risk category as defined by the Centers for Disease Control must be allowed to participate remotely.

Judges must ensure exposed surfaces are cleaned at the end of the proceeding or after each use. The judge must also ensure appropriate social distancing.

A May 19 order said jury trials shall be postponed until at least Aug. 1, with in-custody criminal trials taking priority.

The order also says grand jury proceedings may resume June 1 and existing grand jury panels may be extended, subject to a 20-day limitation.

A grand jury may be conducted remotely via available telephonic or video technology.

Cases tolled by administrative order shall be presented to a grand jury by July 30.

## Louisiana

The **Louisiana Supreme Court** ordered that no criminal or civil jury trials shall commence before June 30.

Civil protection orders, child in need of care proceedings, emergency child custody matters and other emergency matters necessary to protect the health, safety and liberty of people are not subject to continuances.

Essential civil and criminal matters should be conducted by video or telephone conferencing.

The prohibition of in-person proceedings has been extended until May 18, except for certain matters.

Filings due between March 12 and May 15 shall be considered timely filed if filed by May 18.

For the first time, the **Louisiana Supreme Court** will hold oral arguments via video conferencing June 8 and 9.

**Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson** asked district judges serving in criminal divisions, along with prosecutors, public defenders and sheriffs, to conduct a risk-based assessment of all jail detainees, other than those convicted of felony offenses and remanded to the **Department of Corrections**.

The guidelines issued include:

For a person charged with misdemeanor crimes other than domestic abuse battery, favor a nominal bail amount or release on a recognizance order with a notice to appear at later date.

For a person convicted of a misdemeanor, consider modifying to a release and supervised probation or time served.

For a person charged with a nonviolent offense, consider reduced bail or a release on a recognizance order with a notice to appear at a later date.

For a person charged in other criminal matters, reexamine the offense and criminal history to determine if bail revisions are appropriate.

"During this very challenging time, the health of thousands of people is dependent on you, the [District] Judges of Louisiana," Justice Johnson wrote. "I commend the way that many of you have already been pursuing ways to minimize outbreaks of COVID-19 in jails."

## Maine

According to the **Maine Supreme Court**, certain case types and proceedings will not be heard or scheduled through May 30, including foreclosures and small claims. The courts may schedule and hear, via video or audio conferencing, all other case types and proceedings.

The courts will continue to schedule and hear certain cases, including arraignments, bail review, juvenile detention hearings, protection-from-harassment and -abuse requests, and emergency guardianships.

All civil and criminal jury matters and grand jury proceedings have been postponed to a date after June 30.

Fines, fees, restitution and attorney fee reimbursement deadlines have been extended to June 1 or the ordered due date, whichever is later. All warrants for failure to pay fees, fines, restitution or court-appointed attorney fees have been vacated.

**Maine's Supreme Judicial Court** has canceled all oral arguments until further notice. Appeals scheduled to be argued in April will be decided on the briefs and no oral arguments will be held in May, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

The Maine bar examination scheduled for July 28 and 29 has been rescheduled to Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

## Maryland

**Maryland** state courts remain closed to the public through June 5.

A May 22 order said phase two of a five-phase plan to return to full operations will begin June 5.

Phase one is the current state of emergency operations.

Phase two expands the scope of matters that can be heard on-site and remotely.

Courts shall proceed to phase three July 20. This phase allows courts to schedule and hold additional matters including certain nonjury trials in district courts.

In phase four, starting Aug. 31, courts will resume nonjury trials and contested hearings in criminal, civil family and juvenile matters.

Phase five, starting Oct. 5, has courts returning to full operations, including jury trials.

Grand juries may resume at the discretion of the administrative judge or his or her designee.

Criminal and civil jury trials scheduled to start on or after March 16 may resume Oct. 5.

Emergency matters that will continue to be handled by the courts include domestic violence petitions, family law emergencies, bail reviews, juvenile detention hearings and search warrants.

**Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch Mary Ellen Barbera** issued an order April 8 to toll or suspend, by the number of days the courts are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all statutory and rule deadlines related to the initiation of matters required to be filed in a state court, including statutes of limitations, effective March 16.

Statute and rule deadlines to hear pending matters have also been suspended or tolled effective March 16 by the number of days the courts are closed due to the pandemic.

## Massachusetts

The **Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court** issued an order April 27, effective May 4, directing the postponement of criminal and civil jury trials until a date no earlier than July 1. Criminal and civil bench trials have been postponed until a date no earlier than June 1, unless they can be conducted remotely.

Until at least June 1, all courts will be open to conduct business, but courthouses will be closed to the public, except for emergency matters that cannot be resolved remotely.

No new grand juries will be empaneled until July 6.

Statutes of limitations are tolled from March 17 through May 31.

Deadlines set forth in statutes, court orders, tracking orders or guidelines that were to have expired between March 16 and June 1 are tolled until June 1, unless otherwise ordered by a court.

The **Supreme Court** ordered courts to not use GPS monitoring as a condition of release or probation unless there is a compelling public safety need to protect a victim, witness, person or the public. The order for GPS monitoring must include an inclusion or exclusion zone.

"Any new GPS order without an inclusion or exclusion zone shall be unlawful and therefore void," the order said.

The act of placing a GPS bracelet on a defendant poses a risk of exposure for the defendant and the probation service personnel, the order said.

The **Supreme Court** issued an order March 20 that gives the court the authority to appoint a person to administer an oath of deposition and take testimony. The order also authorizes any deposition taken under a Massachusetts state court rule to be administered without being in the presence of the deponent, as long as the person before whom the deposition is to be taken can see and hear the deponent using audiovisual communication equipment.

The July Massachusetts bar exam has been rescheduled to Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 in Boston. If the Uniform Bar Examination cannot be conducted safely in person, an alternative exam will be administered remotely and will grant admission only to the bar of Massachusetts.

The **Massachusetts Board of Bar Examiners** will expedite the grading of the exam and its character and fitness investigations so graduates will have results by late December. Admission to the bar will be postponed by eight weeks to the week of Jan. 11-15, 2021.

The **Supreme Judicial Court** issued an order April 22 concerning the application of its Rule 3:03(9). The court said that the restriction of the application of Rule 3:03 to students whose right to appear commenced at least three months before graduation from law school shall not apply to students who graduate from Massachusetts law schools in the spring of 2020. Massachusetts law school deans have been authorized to file a student certification request form any time before graduation.

## Michigan

The deadlines for filings, jurisdictional and nonjurisdictional, in the **Michigan Supreme Court** and **Court of Appeals** have been tolled until the expiration of **Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's** Executive Order 2020-21 or a subsequent executive order that extends the stay-at-home period.

A March 18 **Michigan Supreme Court** order limits court activity to essential functions, limits access to courtrooms and other spaces to 10 people or fewer and says trial courts should practice social distancing.

An April 23 order said all jury trials in state courts have been delayed until June 22.

Civil trials and business court matters must be conducted by interactive video or other remote tools or they must be adjourned until further order of the court.

Criminal proceedings involving in-custody defendants, pleas, sentencings, arraignments, extradition and emergency motions should be conducted via interactive video or other remote tools.

Personal protection orders that expire through June 1 have been extended to July 21.

## Minnesota

The **Minnesota Judicial Council** determined that the Judicial Branch is in a transitional phase and has approved plans to allow a gradual approach in extending the number and type of in-person proceedings held in court.

**Minnesota Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea's** May 15 order said district judges and court staff shall continue to process cases.

Effective May 18, judges and court staff shall implement the transitional cases strategies.

The Judicial Council authorized a pilot program for criminal jury trials that may proceed on or after June 1 for counties that have been approved to participate.

No other criminal jury trials shall be held before July 6 and no civil jury trials shall be held before Sept. 1.

District courts shall not call grand jurors for service until the court has a submitted and approved grand jury pilot plan.

Other than for in-person proceedings held as authorized by the transitional case strategies, proceedings in all case types shall continue to be held via interactive video teleconference or other remote technology.

**Justice Gildea** issued an order May 28 that required each district court in every county and the state appellate courts to open at least one public service counter by June 15.

Parties are suggested to visit the state court's new reopening webpage, [www.mncourts.gov/reopening](http://www.mncourts.gov/reopening), before visiting a courthouse.

**Minnesota Court of Appeals** and **Supreme Court** proceedings shall continue as scheduled and in-person hearings must be conducted consistent with the preparedness plan.

Appellate courts have been authorized to grant reasonable deadline extensions, up to 30 days.



## Mississippi

The **Mississippi Supreme Court** issued an order March 20 saying all local and state courts shall remain open to ensure the fulfillment of their duties.

The court urged the use of remote technologies. **Mississippi Chief Justice Michael K. Randolph** issued an order to allow persons qualified to administer an oath to swear a witness remotely by audiovisual communication.

To limit in-person contact, the court has temporarily suspended Miss. R. Crim. P. § 1.8, which requires "defense counsel be present at the location with the defendant during the proceedings."

In-person proceedings shall continue in certain cases, including in-progress jury trials, child protection emergency matters, emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons, issues involving the COVID-19 public health emergency, and obtaining warrants.

Any in-person proceedings will be limited to parties, attorneys, witnesses, security officers, members of the press and other necessary people as determined by the trial judge.

A May 7 order said that in counties with two or less reported deaths from COVID-19, judges may instruct clerks to issue jury summonses that would be returnable on or after May 18. In those counties, individual judges have the discretion to postpone jury trials through June 12.

In all other counties, jury summonses should not be sent to jurors that would be returnable before June 15.

## Missouri

The **Missouri Supreme Court** issued operational directives May 4 that took effect May 16.

The operational directives give courts guidance on resuming previously suspended court operations.

On June 5, the **Missouri Supreme Court** issued an order to supplement the previous order on jury proceedings procedures.

Jury proceedings are not anticipated before a court enters the third phase of the operational directives in the Gateway Criteria, which would be June 13 at the earliest.

Any order moving or adapting courthouse operations from operating phase to another phase must implement policies protecting all parties, including social distancing, the use of face coverings and heightened sanitation and disinfection of common areas.

Operating phase zero suspends all in-person court proceedings except for certain proceedings.

Operating phase one allows for the consideration of resuming critical in-person proceedings and limits grand and petit jury proceedings to extraordinary, pressing and urgent cases.

Operating phase two increases in-person proceedings and keeps occupancy rates of large venues to 25 or fewer people whenever possible.

Operating phase three allows for the resumption of in-person proceedings including petit and grand jury proceedings that can be conducted with proper social distancing protocols and occupancy rate limitations.

The earliest a court could enter the third phase is June 13, since a court must complete 14 days in an operating phase before it can proceed to the next phase.

If there are no suitable locations in the court facilities to conduct jury proceedings in accordance with social distancing protocols, the presiding judge should explore the use of alternative facilities such as school gymnasiums or community centers.

The Missouri bar exam scheduled for July 28 and 29 is proceeding as scheduled. Applicants can postpone taking the exam to February 2021 without paying a postponement fee. To be eligible for the fee waiver, applicants must submit written notice to the **Missouri Board of Law Examiners** by June 15.

## Montana

**Montana Chief Justice Mike McGrath** issued an order May 22 as **Gov. Steve Bullock** moved the state into phase two of reopening.

Judges should continue to conduct all necessary matters by video or teleconference, according to the order.

The order says judges must continue planning locally for returning to necessary jury trials. The trials must be conducted in a way that maintains social distance and protects the jurors' health.

A physical distance of 6 feet between people must be maintained with no more than 50 people in circumstances that do not allow for appropriate social distancing.

Courts must work with public health officials to determine how to screen people entering the courtroom.

Hand sanitizer must be made available throughout the building and building maintenance workers must have a plan for disinfecting the building throughout the day.

Courts are "strongly encouraged" to require people entering the courtroom to wear face coverings or masks.

Judges must plan locally for returning to necessary jury trials. The courts at a minimum must identify those in the potentially at-risk category, excuse jurors who may be at high-risk or have other appropriate reasons not to report, call jurors in smaller groups, space jurors throughout the building, seat jurors using physical distancing during a trial and deliberations, and limit in-court spectators.

## Nebraska

**Nebraska's Douglas County District Court** ordered May 20 that it will reinstate the July jury panel for criminal cases and will be limited to three cases in July.

The **Dakota County District Court** continued most criminal, traffic and juvenile cases that were pending between March 13 and April 20.

The **Nebraska Supreme Court** has suspended the rule capping distance learning credits that may be used to satisfy the 10-credit continuing legal education requirement.

The Nebraska bar examination will be administered July 28 and 29. An additional examination session has been scheduled for Sept. 9 and 10.

## Nevada

The **Nevada Supreme Court and Court of Appeals** imposed visitor restrictions on its courthouses in **Las Vegas** and **Carson City**.

The restrictions include people who have traveled to, resided in or been in close contact with someone who has traveled to countries for which the U.S. Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention has issued a level three travel health notice; people who have been diagnosed or been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; and people with COVID-19 symptoms.

All employees and anyone in a public area of the Carson City or Las Vegas appellate courthouses are required to wear face coverings and follow social distancing guidelines and the posted room occupancy limits.

The **Las Vegas Justice Court** and **Las Vegas Municipal Court** customer service counter on the first floor of the **Regional Justice Center** is closed. Traffic-related matters should be conducted by phone, video or other electronic means.

A modified Nevada bar examination will take place July 28-29. The **Nevada Board of Bar Examiners** will conduct the exam online using ILG Exam 360, except for applicants who choose to handwrite the exam or who require accommodation. The essay portion of the exam will remain, including the eight Nevada essay questions and performance test.

## New Hampshire

The **New Hampshire Supreme Court** ordered May 21 that all in-person proceedings in the Supreme Court will remain suspended through June 15.

Exceptions to the order include proceedings necessary to protect the public on an interim or emergency basis from a threat of serious harm posed by an attorney's or judge's conduct, proceedings related to emergency relief and COVID-19 public health emergency proceedings.

Effective May 26 at 8 a.m., deadlines are no longer automatically suspended, tolled or extended but may be extended by request.

Other orders issued May 21 suspended in-person circuit and superior court proceedings through June 15 and/or the final day of Gov. Chris Sununu's state of emergency declaration.

Exceptions to the orders include proceedings necessary to protect constitutional rights of criminal defendants, requests for orders of protection for domestic violence and requests for emergency orders in minor guardianship cases. The court will conduct many of these cases by telephone.

Statutes of limitations, statutes of repose, certain court deadlines, protection orders and temporary injunctions that were to expire between May 26 and June 15, and/or the last day of the state of emergency, have been extended to June 16, and/or the final day of the declared state of emergency.

The New Hampshire bar examination scheduled for July 28 and 29 will now be administered Sept. 9 and 10. The **New Hampshire Board of Bar Examiners** extended the deadline for applying to take the exam to May 15.

## New Jersey

The **New Jersey Supreme Court** issued an order April 24 suspending jury trials, landlord/tenant trials and grand jury proceedings through May 31.

Municipal court sessions resumed May 11 by telephone or video, where possible.

A May 14 **New Jersey Supreme Court** order launched a virtual grand jury pilot program to start in **Bergen** and **Mercer** counties.

The technology is similar to what is being used for virtual hearings but has additional security measures.

Around 1,400 defendants are detained in county jails awaiting indictment along with other defendants on pretrial release, according to a May 14 news release.

The program will be used to determine if the judiciary will expand remote grand jury proceedings to more counties and the state. Cases will be presented to a grand jury if the defendant consents to proceed remotely.

Tort claims filings and depositions or appearances of doctors, nurses and other health care workers have been suspended through May 31.

The July bar exam has been postponed until the fall. **New Jersey Supreme Court Chief Justice Stuart Rabner** signed an order April 6 that allows law school graduates the opportunity to temporarily practice law under the supervision of experienced attorneys.

The order allows 2020 graduates of accredited law schools to enter appearances, draft legal documents and pleadings, provide legal services to clients, engage in negotiations and settlement discussions and provide other counsel consistent with the practice of law in New Jersey.

Graduates must be certified by the Committee of Character before being authorized to temporarily practice law.

"At this challenging time, the public has a continuing and growing need for legal services in many critical areas," Justice Rabner wrote. "Newly admitted lawyers can help meet that need."

With respect to computing time limits for the commencement of a prosecution for an indictable offense, the additional period starting March 30 through April 26 has been tolled.

## New Mexico

**New Mexico Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura** issued an order May 28 on the resumption of jury trials.

Civil and criminal jury trials may recommence between June 15 and July 15, pursuant to individual plans submitted to the **New Mexico Supreme Court** by the judicial district's chief judge.

Plans shall include precautionary measures for safe operation of courthouses. The previously ordered 15-person maximum gathering restriction may be exceeded if at least 6 feet between every person can be maintained while entering, inside and leaving the courthouse.

Judges are using audio and video teleconferencing platforms, including Google Meet, for civil and criminal proceedings, except in emergency situations that require an in-person appearance.

Any person ordered to pay fines or fees in district, metropolitan, magistrate or municipal court that are due between May 30 and June 30 has been granted an additional 30 days from the original due date to pay the fines and fees.

The New Mexico Supreme Court suspended in-person **Children, Youth and Family Department** family visits until further order of the court.

The department said it will begin facilitating court-ordered family visits for children in foster care through video and telephone conferencing.

The July bar examination has been postponed. The court anticipates the exam may be held Sept. 9 and 10, but the dates will be finalized later.

The high court on May 15 issued an order that all people entering state courthouses must wear a mask or other face covering.

## New York

The **New York** state court system has started a gradual return to in-person proceedings.

The **4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th** judicial districts in **Upstate New York** started phase three of their return to operations.

The third phase allows certain proceedings to be heard in person, including child support hearings, some civil bench trials and preliminary hearings for criminal cases where the defendant is being held in jail on felony complaints.

Nonessential matters, juvenile delinquency proceedings and certain mental hygiene law proceedings will continue to be held virtually.

The **3rd, 9th and 10th** judicial districts are in phase two of a gradual return to in-person proceedings.

Under phase two, essential family matters will be conducted in person while nonessential matters and mediation/alternate dispute resolution will be held virtually.

**New York City** state courts started their gradual reopening June 10 with phase one.

Steps to protect health and safety of people in the courthouse will be enforced. Those steps include physical distancing, restricting courthouse traffic, screening for COVID-19, requiring the wearing of masks, sanitizing facilities, and installing acrylic barriers and hand sanitizer dispensers.

Beginning May 18, new estate cases involving people who died from coronavirus-related conditions may be filed in **Surrogate's Court**.

The **New York State Bar Association**, the New York state court system and other bar groups are developing a network of volunteer lawyers to provide free legal representation in uncontested coronavirus-related matters to families who cannot afford a lawyer in Surrogate's Courts.

The **New York City Family Court** has increased its number of virtual courtrooms to five. Judges are limited to addressing certain essential matters, including child protection intake cases involving remand applications, newly filed juvenile delinquency intake cases involving remand applications and modification to those orders, and family offense petitions requesting temporary protection orders.

The July 2020 New York state bar examination has been rescheduled for Sept. 9 and 10.

## North Carolina

The **Supreme Court of North Carolina** issued an order May 21 to extend time and periods of limitation for papers and documents due in the trial courts.

Deadlines for filing documents and papers in civil actions, estates and special proceedings that were to be filed or done between March 16 and June 1 remain extended until the close of business June 1.

Periods of limitation in civil actions, estates and special proceedings that were set to expire between March 16 and July 31 have been extended until the close of business July 31.

Deadlines for filing documents and papers in criminal actions that were due to be filed or done between March 16 and July 31 have been extended until the close of business July 31.

**North Carolina Chief Justice Cheri Beasley** issued another order May 21 that prohibits courts from scheduling sessions that would cause the public to gather in close proximity for extended periods of time.

The order says judicial officials should continue to use remote technology to limit in-person appearances.

No jury trials shall commence in district or superior courts for 30 days from the order. Justice Beasley said she intends to extend this directive through at least the end of July.

Beginning June 1, pleadings and other documents delivered by the U.S. Postal Service to the Superior Court clerk shall be considered timely filed if received within five business days of the filing due date.

A previous order credited back attorneys with secure-leave periods in the appellate courts during April and May. Attorneys who want to keep their secure-leave periods during those months must contact the clerk of the Supreme Court.

## North Dakota

The **North Dakota Supreme Court** suspended all jury trials through July 1. Presiding judges have been given discretion until July 1 to continue bench trials or hearings.

A May 20 order says that for criminal trials, if the district court has granted a continuance in a case where a speedy trial has been demanded, the Supreme Court has determined the period between March 16 and July 1 shall be deducted from the date by which the trial must commence.

Specialty courts may resume in-person meetings and hearings at the discretion of the presiding judge.

On April 8, the court issued an order extending the deadline to hold a traffic violation hearing in district or municipal court to 150 days. A traffic violation hearing may be conducted using "reliable electronic means."

Guardianship reviews have been suspended until June 1. Existing guardianships have been extended until further Supreme Court order.

## Northern Mariana Islands

The **Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** issued an order May 8 on court operations.

Third-quarter oral arguments scheduled for Aug. 17-28 will proceed as scheduled, subject to COVID-19 precautionary measures.

**Superior Court** actions scheduled before July 2 are being held via video or telephone conference when practicable. Proceedings that require an in-person appearance may be scheduled in the **Guma' Hustisia** courthouse in **Susupe, Saipan**; the **Kotten Tinian** courthouse in **San Jose, Tinian**; and the **Centron Hustisia** courthouse in **Sinapalo, Rota**.

Superior court bench trials may be heard but all jury trials are postponed until after July 2.

Filing through July 2 will be accepted via e-filing through File & ServeXpress, email or through the U.S. Postal Service. Existing filing deadlines remain in effect unless otherwise ordered.

The judiciary facilities mentioned above in **Susupe, Saipan**; **San Jose, Tinian**; and **Sinapalo, Rota** are open for limited purposes through July 2.

Judiciary alternate sites at the **Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan**; **Drug Court, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan**; **Office of Adult Probation Supervision Satellite Office, Susupe, Saipan**; and **Law Revision Commission, Susupe, Saipan**, are also open for limited purposes through July 2.

## Ohio

The **Ohio Supreme Court** issued Administrative Action 2020-Ohio-1166, which retroactively extends the state of emergency declared by **Gov. Mike DeWine** in Executive Order 2020-01D until July 30 or the date the emergency ends for tolling of time requirements.

The **Supreme Court** and the **Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center** are operating with essential staff. The building is open but to only those who have time-sensitive business.

The Ohio high court issued a guidance to local courts March 20.

To minimize physical appearances at court, the Supreme Court said lower courts should leverage technology such as web-based meetings and videoconferencing for arraignments, hearings, probation meetings and mediations.

The Ohio Supreme Court also said to use discretion when releasing people held in jail; to release people incarcerated for nonviolent misdemeanor offenses and place them on community-control sanctions such as electronic monitoring unless there is evidence that the release would present a substantial risk of harm; and to release incarcerated people who are in a high-risk category for being infected with COVID-19, unless there is evidence that the release would present a substantial risk of harm.

On May 19, the **Ohio Jury Trial Advisory Group** released its report and recommendations to resume jury trials.

The group concluded that the resumption of trial is necessary, so long as certain conditions are met. Jury trials must proceed when essential, when they can be conducted in accordance with the best legal and medical practices and when they can honor the fundamental rights of the parties.

The group will continue to analyze best practices as courts resume jury trials.

On May 12, **Champaign County Judge Nick A. Selvaggio** announced changes to the common pleas court.

Petit jury trials have been moved to the community center, the grand jury location remains at the county courthouse and hearings of the common pleas court and family court also remain at the county courthouse.

The Ohio bar examination scheduled for July has been postponed to Sept. 9-10.

## Oklahoma

All district courts in **Oklahoma** have been ordered to cancel jury terms through May 15. All criminal, civil and juvenile jury trials shall be continued to the next available jury dockets after July 31.

Additional jury dockets may be ordered in July, August or later in the year.

Courthouses in all 77 counties remain closed to public to the extent that civil and criminal nonjury hearings and other matters may be set after May 16.

**Oklahoma Chief Justice Noma D. Gurich** issued an order April 29 to assist judges and clerks with transitioning from shelter-in-place directives.

If an emergency docket is held, no more than 10 people, including the judge and court personnel, will be allowed in the courtroom at one time.

Judges are encouraged to continue remote participation using teleconferencing or videoconferencing using Skype, Bluejeans.com and webinar-based platforms. Zoom remains blocked on all equipment.

Deadlines and procedures prescribed by rule, statute or order in civil, criminal or juvenile cases have been suspended through May 15, subject to constitutional limitations. All deadlines, rules and procedures shall be enforced starting May 16.



## Oregon

**Oregon Chief Justice Martha L. Walters** is seeking legislative authority to extend or suspend timelines set by statute or rule that apply after the start of both criminal and civil cases and ensure the ability to appear in court by remote means, including telephone.

She is also requiring circuit courts, appellate courts, the tax court and Office of the State Administrator and its divisions to comply with the amended Level Three restrictions to limit the number of people in a courthouse and in workplaces.

The Level Three restrictions on operations — in effect until further notice by Justice Walters — include high-risk persons, such as people 65 and older; people with high-risk conditions including chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma or serious heart conditions; people with underlying medical conditions such as liver disease, renal failure and diabetes; people with weakened immune systems; people with severe obesity (body mass index over 40); people in long-term care facilities and people without housing.

For in-custody defendants, a presiding judge may schedule a trial to begin before June 1. Absent a party's motion to postpone the trial, the presiding judge shall consider whether to postpone a trial scheduled to start before June 1. The presiding judge shall not postpone such trials unless it can be determined that postponement will not violate a constitutional or statutory right.

Most other bench trials shall be postponed until after June 1. Presiding judges may schedule a trial to start before June 1 if parties consent to its being held remotely.

Nonessential proceedings scheduled to start before June 1 have been postponed. A party may request the holding of a nonessential proceeding before June 1 if the presiding judge can determine whether the trial, hearing or proceeding may be carried out remotely or with sufficient social distancing.

Essential court proceedings may be scheduled on a date before June 1, but some matters will be conducted remotely.

Starting June 1, in counties where the governor has authorized a phase one reopening status, courts may conduct bench trials and other proceedings.

After July 1, and in counties where the governor has authorized gatherings of at least 50 people, courts may conduct civil and criminal jury trials.

According to a May 20 order, all courts and offices of the **Oregon Judicial Department** will be closed to the public May 29, June 26 and July 17 due to anticipated reductions in funding.

The closures do not apply to oral arguments before the Court of Appeals.

## Pennsylvania

The statewide judicial emergency for the Pennsylvania courts expired June 1.

The **Pennsylvania Supreme Court** has empowered president judges to limit in-person access and proceedings, suspend statewide rules that restrict the use of communication technologies, suspend rules that impede court filings by means other than

in-person, suspend statewide rules pertaining to the right of a prompt trial and suspend jury trials until they can be conducted in a way that meets health and safety norms.

Statewide suspension of deadlines and time calculations ended May 11.

The **Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas** has canceled all jury trials through Sept. 8. All criminal, civil, orphans' court, municipal court and traffic court trials, hearings and conferences scheduled through July 6 have been administratively canceled and will be rescheduled, unless specifically notified.

On May 21, **1st Judicial District President Judge Idee C. Fox** ordered the suspension of criminal and civil jury trials through Sept. 8.

Small-claims cases, other than consumer purchase cases, may be filed in the **Philadelphia Municipal Court's Civil Division**.

On May 5, the **1st Judicial District** issued a notice for protocol for discovery motions during the judicial emergency.

The court ordered parties to follow the protocol for any civil matter currently pending in which a discovery motion has been filed. The movant shall submit an appropriate praecipe, via the e-filing system, within 20 days of the court's notice to the bar.

Oral arguments scheduled June 8-12 before the commonwealth court will be conducted remotely. The court will provide a livestream of the arguments for the public and media.

## Puerto Rico

The **Puerto Rico Supreme Court** said May 2 that the judicial branch will maintain its current operations and will increase video conference services. The judicial branch will not increase face-to-face operations.

Only urgent matters, including hearings, protection orders and certain family matters, will be attended during this period.

The **Puerto Rico Supreme Court** extended the terms of judicial proceedings that expire between March 16 and May 17 until June 8.

Starting April 6, the investigative rooms of the 13 judicial centers of Puerto Rico will be open to receive new urgent matters from noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The investigation rooms in the **San Juan, Bayamón Ponce** and **Mayagüez** judicial regions will also operate during those hours on weekends and holidays.

The judicial branch also extended the use of videoconferencing for hearings in civil cases and family relations cases.

The **Conflict Mediation Centers** added services that can be conducted remotely.

## Rhode Island

**Rhode Island Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell** ordered May 15 that criminal superior court trials scheduled to start between March 16 and Aug. 1 are continued until after Aug. 1. Civil trials are continued to a date no earlier than Aug. 1.

A trial judge may schedule a bench trial that is held remotely. In-person bench trials may be recommenced after June 1 provided that safety precautions, including appropriate social distancing, are implemented.

The order allowed grand jury proceedings to recommence anytime after May 17, provided that safety precautions are implemented for participants.

The court started scheduling a limited number of pretrial conferences June 1.

For civil cases, the court will schedule a limited amount of control conferences commencing June 5.

Courts may reinstitute payment deadlines with notice to parties.

Filing deadlines that were to expire between March 17 and May 17 were extended to May 29.

As a result of the availability of the electronic filing system, statutes of limitations are not tolled and will continue to run.

Essential and emergency matters include emergency petitions, protection orders, restraining orders, Rule 5A bail petitions and arraignments for certain offenses, including alcohol-related driving offenses, shall be heard either remotely or in the appropriate judicial building.

The Rhode Island bar exam scheduled for July has been postponed indefinitely.

## South Carolina

In an April 22 order, the **South Carolina Supreme Court** continued all jury selections and jury trials for criminal and civil cases until further notice.

Nonjury trials may be authorized if the parties consent or if the matter involved needs an immediate resolution. The trial can be conducted remotely or carried out in a way to minimize the number of people appearing at the same time.

Deadlines under existing scheduling orders have been stayed retroactive to March 13. The stay will end 45 days after the date on which the governor lifts the COVID-19 emergency order.

**South Carolina Chief Justice Donald W. Beatty** issued an order May 29 that allowed county grand juries to convene in person starting June 1.

The due dates for appellate and supreme court filings due between March 20 and June 8 have been extended for 20 days.

Incoming paper documents that were mailed or delivered to the court may be quarantined for up to 48 hours after they were received. Once the quarantine period has ended, the documents will be date-stamped with the date they were received.

The **South Carolina Supreme Court** said June 2 that it intends to administer the bar examination July 28 and 29. If it cannot be conducted in July, the court intends to administer the exam Sept. 9 and 10.

## South Dakota

The **South Dakota Supreme Court** declared a judicial emergency March 13.

**South Dakota Chief Justice David Gilbertson** ordered all seven of the state's circuit courts to adopt, modify and suspend court rules and orders.

**Presiding Circuit Judge Cheryle Gering** for **South Dakota's 1st Circuit** wrote March 19 that no depositions, mediations or arbitrations will take place in any courthouse in the circuit. She also ordered the use of video or telephone for appearances.

## Tennessee

The **Tennessee Supreme Court** issued an order May 26 to ease the suspension of in-person court proceedings.

Most plans from judicial districts on conducting in-person proceedings submitted to the Supreme Court have been reviewed and approved.

The jury trial suspension will remain in effect through July 3, subject to exceptions based on extraordinary circumstances. Jury trials commenced after July 3 must comply with applicable courtroom capacity and social distancing requirements at the time of the trial.

Civil jury trials shall proceed with six jurors, unless there is a specific request by a party for a 12-person jury. A request for a 12-person jury must be filed no later than 20 days before the trial.

Deadlines in court rules, statutes, ordinances, statutes of limitation, statutes of repose, protection orders, temporary injunctions and administrative rules that would have expired between March 13 and May 31 were extended through June 5.

Any state or local rule that blocks a judge's or court clerk's ability to use available technology to limit in-person contact has been suspended until further order.

Courts should continue to utilize telephone, teleconferencing, email, videoconferencing and other means that do not involve in-person contact.

Under a policy approved May 11, the bar exam scheduled for July 28 and 29 will go forward with reduced seating. First seating priority will be given to 2019 and 2020 graduates of law schools located in Tennessee who will be taking the exam for the first time.

Applicants who cannot be seated for the July exam will be seated for an additional exam scheduled for Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

## Texas

On May 26, the **Supreme Court of Texas** issued an order extending until Aug. 15 any deadline for filing or service of a civil case that falls between March 13 and July 1. This extension does not include deadlines for perfecting appeal or for other appellate proceedings.

All courts in Texas may in any criminal or civil case modify or suspend any and all deadlines and procedures through Sept. 30, subject only to constitutional limitations.

The courts may also use remote technologies to allow or require parties involved in hearings, depositions or other proceedings to participate.

To hold in-person proceedings after June 1, a court must submit an operating plan that is consistent with the requirements set forth by the **Office of Court Administration's** guidance for proceedings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The OCA should assist trial courts in conducting a limited amount of jury proceedings before Aug. 1, either in-person or remote proceedings involving grand and petit jurors. The office must submit a report by July 31 outlining observations about the proceedings and making recommendations about procedures.

On June 1, courts were allowed to hold nonessential in-person hearings consistent with the OCA's guidance on proceedings.

Prior to holding in-person proceedings, the local administrative district judge for a county or presiding judge of a municipal court must submit an operating plan.

Each operating plan must outline how it will handle scheduling, court staff health, vulnerable populations, social distancing, hygiene, screening, face coverings and cleanings.

The Supreme Court, in consultation with the **Board of Law Examiners** and the deans of Texas law schools, has determined that the bar examination scheduled for July 28-30 should be administered. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the board will also administer the exam Sept. 9-11.

## Utah

The **Utah Supreme Court** and **Utah Judicial Council** issued an administrative order March 21 to activate the court system's pandemic response plan. The order was updated May 11.

Presiding judges, trial court executives, court clerks and chief probation officers should implement their district pandemic response plans and coordinate with community partners such as prosecutors, defense attorneys and sheriffs.

Courts shall remain open and continue to accept filings, the order said.

District and justice court judges have been directed to suspend all criminal and civil jury trials until further administrative orders. If a defendant is in custody on class B or C misdemeanor offenses, the judge must consider the defendant's custody status and is encouraged to release the defendant, subject to conditions.

According to the order, district and justice courts shall continue mission-critical functions for defendants who are in custody, such as probable cause review of warrantless arrests, bail hearings, bench warrant hearings and appearances mandated by statute.

For civil cases, district courts shall continue mission-critical functions including hearings for protective orders, stalking injunctions, temporary restraining orders and involuntary commitments.

Juvenile court judges are directed to conduct shelter hearings, child welfare adjudication and disposition hearings, detention hearings, protective orders, detention reviews, in-custody delinquency adjudication and disposition hearings and other hearings involving a child at risk of abuse, neglect or dependency. Parties should resolve all matters by written motion or remotely.

## Vermont

The **Vermont Supreme Court** declared a judicial emergency that extends until Sept. 1, subject to additional orders.

Criminal jury trials have been suspended through at least Sept. 1, and summons will not be sent before Aug. 3.

Civil jury trials have been suspended until Jan. 1, 2021.

Certain nonemergency superior court hearings have been postponed.

Superior court judges may conduct nonevidentiary hearings in nonemergency matters if all parties participate remotely and not in the courthouse.

The courts will continue to hear certain cases, including arraignments of defendants in custody, requests for search warrants when electronic means are unavailable, juvenile temporary care hearings, final hearings in stalking and relief-from-abuse proceedings, and emergency motions to suspend parent-child contact in juvenile or domestic cases.

The Vermont bar exam scheduled for July will not be administered and has been postponed to a later date.

## Virgin Islands

**U.S. Virgin Islands Chief Justice Rhys S. Hodge** issued an administrative order May 28 regarding the resumption of certain operations.

As of June 1, all matters may be heard remotely except for bench and jury trials and substantive hearings that cannot practically be conducted remotely.

On June 15, in-person court proceedings, other than jury trials, may resume.

Starting Aug. 1, in-person jury trials may be held.

The automatic tolling, suspension or extension of certain deadlines has been extended through June 14.

Documents that were due to be filed between March 23 and June 14 in the **Supreme Court, Superior Court, the Board on Professional Responsibility, the Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law, the Commission on Judicial Conduct** and any other entity within the judicial branch will be due June 15.

Temporary restraining orders, injunctions and stays that were to expire between March 23 and June 14 have been extended to June 15, unless the presiding judicial officer orders them to be terminated earlier.

The 84-day period between March 23 and June 14 shall be excluded when determining the time to file an appeal or effectuate service of process, or when calculating other legally significant dates as provided by law.

The Virgin Islands bar examination scheduled for July has been postponed until September.

## Virginia

The **Virginia Supreme Court** extended its judicial emergency until June 28, according to a June 1 order.

The order tolls and extends certain deadlines, time schedules and filing requirements through June 28.

In civil cases, deadlines and obligations arising out of **Part Four of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia** are not tolled. Courts may impose and enforce pretrial deadlines, upon notice to parties or their counsel.

Courts may hear in-person nonemergency matters and nonjury cases if safe to do so and in compliance with the transitioning guidance.

All matters a court hears should be conducted using two-way electronic audiovisual communication, if available.

Routine proceedings, including debt, unlawful detainers and issuance of garnishments, will be continued.

Deadlines imposed by the Speedy Trial Act are tolled through June 28.

The court should give precedence to emergency matters, including quarantine or isolation matters, criminal arraignments, bail reviews, protective orders and emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable person proceedings.

## Washington

All jury trials in **Washington** state have been suspended until at least July 6.

Nonjury trials may be conducted remotely or in person with strict observance of social distancing and other public health measures.

Nonemergency civil matters may be continued after June 1. The courts should begin hearing nonemergency civil matters if they can be conducted remotely or in person using social distancing and other public health measures.

Emergency civil matters should continue to be heard by telephone, video or in person observing social distancing and other public health measures.

Certain out-of-custody criminal matters may be continued until after June 1.

Out-of-custody arraignments for criminal and juvenile cases filed between March 18 and July 3 may be deferred until a date 45 days after charges were filed.

In-custody criminal and juvenile matters shall be continued until after June 1, except for scheduling and hearing of first appearances, arraignments, plea hearings, criminal motions and sentencing or disposition hearings.

Courts must allow video or telephone appearances for all scheduled juvenile and criminal offender hearings.

Courts in the state have modified their hours and procedures.

The **King County District Court** will hear in-custody criminal matters, including mental health and veteran's court matters where charges were brought by the state, at the **King County Correctional Facility** and **Maleng Regional Justice Center** in **Kent**.

Out-of-custody criminal matters scheduled between May 4 and July 31 will be rescheduled.

The clerk's offices for **Seattle**, **Maleng Regional Justice Center** and the **Bellevue** courthouse will only be open from 8:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Civil pretrial and motion hearings will be held by telephone unless a specific request is made.

Emergency applications for domestic violence protection orders, sexual assault protection orders, vulnerable adult protection orders, extreme risk protection orders, emergency guardianship matters involving immediate risk of harm, and emergency civil and family law restraining orders where there is an imminent risk of physical harm will still be heard. All hearings in the ex parte department shall be telephonic.

## West Virginia

The **West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals** issued an order May 6 concerning the resumption of operations.

In-person hearings or proceedings resumed May 18, grand jury proceedings may commence June 15 and jury trials may commence June 29.

Deadlines set forth in statutes, court rules, ordinances, administrative rules, scheduling orders and otherwise that were scheduled to expire between March 23 and May 15 have been extended to May 18.

Statutes of limitations and repose that were scheduled to expire between March 23 and May 15 have been extended to May 18. However, deadlines, statutes of limitation and statutes of repose that are not set to expire between March 23 and May 15 are not extended or tolled.

Any state or local rule that limits or blocks a judicial officer or court clerk's ability to use remote, telephone or video technology to limit in-person contact has been suspended to the extent that it does not infringe on constitutional rights.

## Wisconsin

A **Wisconsin Supreme Court** order issued May 22 extends previous orders on jury trials in the circuit courts.

The April 15 order to allow remote hearings in lieu of in-person appearances has been extended for each circuit court until the court has an approved operational plan to resume in-person proceedings and jury trials.

Certain exceptions to the order include inadequate remote technology, jury trials and proceedings to protect constitutional rights.

A March 22 order restricting civil and criminal jury trials in the circuit courts has been extended until the court has an approved operational plan to safely resume in-person proceedings and jury trials.

The Wisconsin bar examination scheduled for July 28 and 29 will proceed as scheduled.



## Wyoming

The **Wyoming Supreme Court** issued an order May 20 extending COVID-19 emergency orders to Aug. 3.

All district and circuit courts have been advised to suspend in-person proceedings, except in circumstances where it is required by law and the constitution.

Judges have been encouraged to utilize telephone or video conferencing, to reschedule civil trials and to attempt the rescheduling of criminal trials.

Felony sentencing and evidentiary probation revocation proceedings may be conducted via videoconferencing, if the defendant consents.

The order allows for remote administration of oaths and witnesses and verification of guilty pleas, and it makes most paper filings optional at the discretion of court clerks.

The requirement to file paper briefs in the **Wyoming Supreme Court** has been lifted.

## Other courts

### U.S. Court of Federal Claims

The **U.S. Court of Federal Claims** has barred public access to the **Howard T. Markey National Courts Building**. All proceedings scheduled to be held before June 15 will be held via telephone or video conference.

Attorney admission ceremonies through June 15 are canceled. Petitions for admission to the court's bar will be accepted via PACER and processed as quickly as possible.

Under a May 21 order, any use of Zoom by judicial officers or court employees is prohibited. Remote court proceedings will be conducted using one of the video conferencing options supported by the federal judiciary.

Pro se litigants with active cases before the court may submit all case filings via email to [ProSe\\_case\\_filings@cfc.uscourts.gov](mailto:ProSe_case_filings@cfc.uscourts.gov). Judges, special masters, the clerk of court and counsel of record for the United States may file electronically in pro se cases using the court's electronic filing system. A pro se litigant may be served either by U.S. mail or by electronic means to which the litigant has consented in writing.

### U.S Tax Court

The **U.S. Tax Court** building is closed and all trial sessions through June 30 are canceled. Court staff is working remotely and the eAccess and eFiling systems are working. The court continues to process items received electronically, issue decisions and receive telephone calls.

All court proceedings will be conducted remotely, according to a May 29 order.

Mail is not being delivered to the court until it reopens. Taxpayers can comply with statutory deadlines by timely mailing petitions or notices of appeal to the Tax Court. Timeliness of the filing is determined by the postmark or certificate of a designated private delivery service.

The IRS on April 9 extended the deadline to file a Tax Court petition and a notice of appeal from a Tax Court decision. If the statutory deadline for filing a petition or notice of appeal falls on or after April 1 and before July 15, the filing deadline is extended to July 15.

### **U.S. Court of International Trade**

The **U.S. Court of International Trade** has restricted access to the courthouse until further notice. Court staff will be available by telephone and email. The court's electronic filing system is working, and all deadlines remain in effect. Parties can participate in and the public can listen to court proceedings via teleconference with approval of the assigned judge or judges.

### **U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims**

The **U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims** is hearing oral arguments via teleconference until further notice. Filing deadlines have not been extended, but the court will "sympathetically consider requests for extensions or stays in individual cases."

### **Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation**

The **Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation** is closed to in-person filings until further notice. Documents can be filed electronically or via fax. The JPML has suspended Rule 3.2(d), which requires courtesy copies of pleadings to be served on the panel clerk, and Rule 3.3(c)(i), which limits faxed pleadings to 10 pages.