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VIRLYNN TINNELL
CLERK SUPERIOR COURT
BY: [Signature] DEPUTY

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MOHAVE

IN THE MATTER OF:

**TRANSITION TO RESUMPTION OF
CERTAIN OPERATIONS
INCLUDING IN-PERSON HEARINGS
AND JURY TRIALS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
2021-12**

Administrative Order 2020-44 was issued on December 15, 2020 temporarily suspending jury trials. In accordance with that administrative order input has been sought from the Judges, Court Leadership, the Court's IT Department and from the criminal justice system stakeholders. All involved have noted a reduction in the COVID-19 positivity rate in the general populous, as well as corresponding declines in cases within the court system and the entities comprising the criminal justice system stakeholders.

The Court has further considered: the physical limitations imposed by the necessity of cleaning and sanitizing the offsite jury assembly room in Kingman; the Lake Havasu and Bullhead City court facilities lack a jury assembly room; and, the inability to secure an offsite facility to accommodate the same in those respective cities. In order to phase in court activities in such a manner that protects the health and safety of all participants and court operations,

IT IS ORDERED lifting the suspension of criminal jury trials beginning March 8, 2021. Judges assigned to criminal matters shall give priority for jury trial settings to in custody individuals at the present. Given the necessity of maintenance of the jury assembly room, each criminal judge shall be limited to one jury trial per week. Each criminal judge shall be assigned a specific day of the week and time that utilization of the jury assembly room shall be available for jury empanelment for their respective criminal division.

At the present the civil division assigned in Kingman will have extremely limited access to the jury assembly room. The civil divisions assigned to the Lake Havasu and

Bullhead City court facilities do not have jury assembly rooms. Each of the civil courtrooms in those respective cities has the capability of sitting fifteen or more prospective jurors. With the current continued administrative order from the Supreme Court limiting preemptory strikes of jurors it is probable that a six-person jury could be empaneled in non-complex civil matters.

IT IS THEREFORE FURTHER ORDERED that beginning as of March 8, 2021 the civil divisions may commence jury trials in which the parties stipulate to six-member jury panels in accord with Rule 48 (a), A.R.C.P. This limited lifting of the suspension of civil jury trials shall remain in effect unless an administrative order is issued providing for the resumption of eight-person civil jury trials. Such administrative order will be issued should appropriate jury assembly rooms be secured in order to maintain appropriate social distancing for the safety of the prospective jurors and court staff. The civil division in Kingman is further authorized to conduct an eight-person jury trial provided the jury assembly room is available for use.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the criminal and civil divisions are authorized to conduct jury empanelment through a combination of in person as well as remote proceedings through ZOOM, or other electronic means on a trial basis through December 31, 2021.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED lifting the suspension of jury trials in the limited jurisdiction courts provided that the respective court has the appropriate physical space to accommodate social distancing for the safety of the prospective jurors throughout the voir dire process.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the grand jury shall continue to be empaneled and conducted in person and remotely through the ZOOM application.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED confirming all previous orders contained within Mohave County Administrative Orders Nos. 2020-23 and 28, except as modified herein.

DATED this 17th day of February, 2021.


Honorable Charles W. Gurtler, Jr., Presiding Judge
Mohave County Superior Court

Original filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court in Mohave County