

APR 0 8 2021



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

IN THE MATTER OF THE CIVIL JURY TRIAL PANELS OF SIX PERSONS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-17

As a result of the pandemic restrictions due to COVID-19, the Superior Court in Mohave County suspended all jury trials in March, 2020. Due to the jury trial suspension both criminal and civil jury trials became backlogged. As criminal jury trials take precedence over civil jury trials, and as the effects of the pandemic lessoned, the suspension of criminal jury trials was lifted or vacated. As a further result of addressing the backlog of criminal jury trials the size of the jury pool was greatly impacted limiting the capacity of the pool of prospective jurors available for civil jury trials.

The legislature of the State of Arizona amended A.R.S. § 21-102(C) to allow the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in the County to issue an order that civil jury trials in a court of record may consist of six persons, with the concurrence of all but one necessary to render a verdict through December 31, 2022. As of January 1, 2023 civil jury trials in any court of record shall then consist of eight persons, with the concurrence of all but two necessary to render a verdict. In Mohave County the Superior Court has already lifted the suspension as to civil jury trials. In order to continue the resumption of both criminal and civil jury trials, and to help protect and ensure there are sufficient available prospective jurors within the jury pool,

IT IS ORDERED that civil jury trials in Mohave County Superior Court shall consist of six persons with the concurrence of all but one necessary to render a verdict beginning as of the date of the signing of this Administrative Order. Six person civil jury trial panels shall continue through December 31, 2022 unless a subsequent Administrative Order is issued resuming the eight person jury panel.

DATED this <u>O</u>day of April, 2021.

HONORABLE CHARLES W. GURTLER, JR.

Presiding Judge
Mohave County Superior Court