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FILED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

FEB 8 2022

V. Magaña

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

RE:
EXTENSION OF ORDER
SUSPENDING JURY TRIALS AND
LIMITING PUBLIC ACCESS TO
COURTROOMS

GENERAL ORDER NO.: 2022-16

COVID-19 continues as a life-threatening pandemic throughout the world, country, state, and local jurisdictions. While the number of COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant is beginning to decrease, Riverside County's positivity rate remains high. According to the State of California COVID-19 Dashboard, Riverside County's positivity rate is 14.2%, which exceeds the statewide rate of 8.8%. Although the number of cases is trending downward, the Court and its justice partners continue to experience significant staffing shortages due to COVID-19.

The Riverside Superior Court remains committed to protecting the health and well-being of litigants, attorneys, jurors, the general public, court staff and judicial officers, while continuing to perform its constitutional and statutory duties. Therefore, in response to the high number of COVID-19 cases within the Riverside County, on January 27, 2022, the Court issued General Order No. 2022-13, which, through February 10, 2022, extended the suspension of all new jury

1 trials, and limited in-person court proceedings to parties, their attorneys and other authorized
2 persons. The Court now finds it necessary to further extend the suspension of jury trials, and
3 continue to limit in-person public access to court proceedings.

4 Therefore, to protect the health and well-being of the public and court personnel, for good
5 cause and pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure §§124 and 128, Government Code §68070, Cal.
6 Rules of Court, rule 10.603, General Order 2022-12, the inherent powers of the Court (In re Reno
7 (2012) 55 Cal.4th 428, 522), and in compliance with federal, state and local guidelines, the Court
8 hereby finds and orders as follows:

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10 1. All civil and criminal jury trials are hereby suspended through February 25, 2022. This
11 order is only applicable to jury trials that have not commenced. This order does not affect jury
12 trials that are in progress, which will be addressed on a case by case basis by the judicial officer
13 presiding over the trial.

14 2. Access to in-person court proceedings is limited to parties, their attorneys, witnesses
15 subpoenaed to testify, one support person statutorily permitted to accompany a person seeking a
16 temporary restraining order, and other authorized persons.

17 3. The term “other authorized persons” includes, but is not limited to members of the
18 press and media subject to prior approval as set forth in Cal. Rules of Court, rule 1.150, or
19 pursuant to any other applicable rule, order or policy.

20 4. The Court recognizes the right of public access to court proceedings. Thus, access to
21 non-confidential court proceedings will be available to the public through audio and video
22 Livestreaming. Information about Courtroom Livestreaming is available on the Court’s website
23 at [https://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CourtroomLivestreaming/courtroom-
24 livestreaming.php](https://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CourtroomLivestreaming/courtroom-
24 livestreaming.php)

25 5. All persons within any courtroom must maintain physical distance from all other
26 persons of at least six (6) feet.

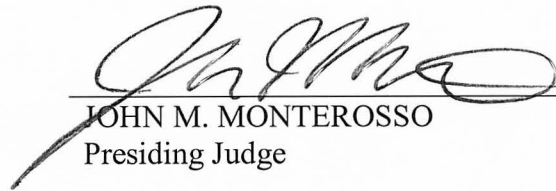
27 6. This order does not restrict or otherwise abrogate the express or inherent authority of
28 the Court and its judges to provide for the orderly conduct of proceedings.

1 7. The Court reserves the authority to rescind or modify any part of this order, as
2 appropriate, to address changing circumstances.

3 8. This order is effective February 14, 2022, through February 25, 2022.
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5 IT IS SO ORDERED.

6 Date: 2/8/22
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10 JOHN M. MONTEROSSO
11 Presiding Judge
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