

Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

Media Relations

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# NEWS RELEASE: COVID-19

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 23, 2020**

## **PRESIDING JUDGE KEVIN C. BRAZILE: ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONS ALLOWED TO ENTER ANY SUPERIOR COURT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

***Presiding Judge Issues New General Order Restricting Courthouse Access  
to Authorized Parties Only Through June 22, 2020***

***Effective Today, Order Delays Criminal and Civil Cases While Prioritizing  
Bail Review Hearings for the Next 60 Days***

Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile today signed a General Order to enact unprecedented measures in the nation's largest trial court to protect the public's health and safety during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Presiding Judge Brazile took this action after obtaining emergency powers pursuant to the provisions of California Government Code section 68115 and authorization by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, who conveyed those powers to him last week.

"In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court has taken numerous measures to protect the public it serves, as well as its staff and judicial officers, while fulfilling its statutory duties," Presiding Judge Brazile said. "In so doing, the Court is committed to implementing measures recommended by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) and that are consistent with our obligation to maintain a safe workplace."

Presiding Judge Brazile ordered, effective immediately, as follows:

- Access to any and all Los Angeles County Courthouses shall be restricted at all times to Judges, Commissioners, court staff and authorized persons until further notice;

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- Access to any and all court proceedings, including but not limited to arraignments, preliminary hearings, motions, ex partes or trials, shall be limited to parties, attorneys, witnesses and authorized persons until further notice;
- The full and complete temporary public closure of the Sylmar Juvenile Courthouse for three (3) days;
- The full and complete public closure of the Beverly Hills, Catalina and Spring Street courthouses, until further notice;
- The Executive Officer/Clerk of Court may provide telephonic and electronic assistance to assist in those essential services as outlined in the March 17, 2020 and March 19, 2020 Administrative Order of the Presiding Judge re: COVID-19 Pandemic;
- The suspension of any and all Criminal or Civil jury or non-jury trials per the March 19, 2020 Administrative Order of the Presiding Judge re: COVID-19 Pandemic, including Unlawful Detainer trials, until further notice;
- In all Criminal cases, a 90-day continuance of any and all status reports and progress reports;
- The continuance of any and all Criminal Misdemeanor cases with out-of-custody defendants, for 90 days, unless otherwise statutorily required;
- Bail review hearings under Penal Code section 1275 for any and all Misdemeanor or Felony pretrial detainees will be deemed a priority matter on the court's calendar for the next 60 days; and
- Social distancing of at least six (6) feet shall be enforced in all courthouses and courtrooms, to the extent possible.

For the latest updates on Coronavirus/COVID-19-related impacts to Court operations, please consult the Court's COVID-19 News Center located at the top of our [homepage](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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**FILED**  
Superior Court of California  
County of Los Angeles

**MAR 23 2020**

Sherrri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk

By Rizalinda Mina, Deputy  
Rizalinda Mina

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE  
PRESIDING JUDGE RE COVID-19  
PANDEMIC

GENERAL ORDER

**WHEREAS**, Donald J. Trump, the President of the United States has declared a national emergency in response to the outbreak of the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Gavin Newsom, the Governor of the State of California has declared a state of emergency in response to the outbreak of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that, for at least eight (8) weeks, all gatherings throughout the United States should be limited to no more than 10 people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has recommended that large gatherings should be avoided, that persons over 65 years of age, and other vulnerable populations should avoid person-to-person contact and maintain a social distance of at least six (6) feet, and that employers allow their employees to telework to the extent reasonable and practical; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 23, 2020, 536 people within the County of Los Angeles have been confirmed to be infected with COVID-19, and seven (7) people within the County of Los Angeles have died from COVID-19, and the number of those infected continues to rise, thus causing an emergency pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, both issued, respectively, stay at home and safer at home orders; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles has obtained  
2 emergency powers pursuant to the provisions of California Government Code section 68115, and has  
3 issued general orders to implement the emergency powers the Chief Justice of the State of California  
4 delegated to the Court.

5           **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY THIS COURT HEREBY ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

- 6           1. Access to any and all Los Angeles County Courthouses shall be restricted at all times to  
7 judges, commissioners, court staff and authorized persons<sup>1</sup> until further notice; and
- 8           2. Access to any and all court proceedings, including but not limited to arraignments,  
9 preliminary hearings, motions, ex partes or trials, shall be limited to parties, attorneys,  
10 witnesses or authorized persons until further notice; and
- 11           3. The full and complete temporary public closure of the Sylmar Juvenile Courthouse for  
12 three (3) days; and
- 13           4. The full and complete public closure of the Beverly Hills, Catalina and Spring Street  
14 Courthouses, until further notice; and
- 15           5. The Executive Officer/Clerk of Court may provide telephonic and electronic assistance  
16 to assist in those essential services as outlined in the [March 17, 2020](#) and [March 19,](#)  
17 [2020](#) Administrative Order of the Presiding Judge re COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as  
18 any subsequent Orders, to the largest extent possible only; and
- 19           6. The suspension of any and all criminal or civil jury or non-jury trials per the [March 19,](#)  
20 [2020](#) Administrative Order of the Presiding Judge re COVID-19 Pandemic, including  
21 unlawful detainer trials, until further notice; and
- 22           7. In all criminal cases, a 90-day continuance of any and all status reports and progress  
23 reports; and
- 24           8. The continuance of any and all criminal misdemeanor cases, with out-of-custody  
25 defendants, for 90 days, unless otherwise statutorily required; and
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<sup>1</sup> Authorized persons include but is not limited to news reporters and news media representatives.

1 9. Bail review hearings under Penal Code section 1275 for any and all misdemeanor or  
2 felony pretrial detainees will be deemed a priority matter on the court's calendar for the  
3 next 60 days; and

4 10. Social distancing of at least six (6) feet shall be enforced in all courthouse and  
5 courtrooms to the extent possible.  
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7 **THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT**  
8 **UNTIL JUNE 22, 2020 AND MAY BE AMENDED AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.**  
9 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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12 DATED: March 23, 2020



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*Kevin C. Brazile*  
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KEVIN C. BRAZILE  
Presiding Judge