

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

**MAY 07 2020**

**Sherri 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

The World Health Organization, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the State of California have recognized that the world, country, and state face a life-threatening pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus.

In response to the spread of COVID-19, Governor Gavin Newsom on March 4, 2020, declared a state of emergency in California, which was followed on March 13, 2020, by President Donald J. Trump declaring a national emergency. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, requiring all Californians to stay home, subject to certain limited exemptions. On or about May 8, 2020, Governor Newsom ordered California into Phase 2 of his stay-at-home order. There has not been a determination of when Phase 2 will end and it is anticipated that it will be months before Phase 3 will begin. Phase 4, which is most likely the end of the state of emergency is most likely to occur sometime in 2021.

Public Health agencies, including the CDC, the California Department of Public Health, and local county health departments have recommended increasingly stringent social distancing measures of at least six feet between people, and encouraged vulnerable individuals, such as persons over the age of 65 and/or who have an underlying medical condition, to avoid public gatherings. The continuous operation of our courts is essential for our constitutional form of government, for providing due process and protecting the public. However, courts are clearly places with high risks during this

1 pandemic because they require gatherings of judicial officers, court staff, litigants, attorneys,  
 2 witnesses, defendants, law enforcement, and jurors—well in excess of the numbers allowed for  
 3 gathering under current executive and health orders.

4 The number of new COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County continues to rise as do the  
 5 number of deaths caused by the virus. At the current time Los Angeles County has approximately  
 6 29,000 COVID-19 cases and approximately 1,360 deaths due to COVID-19.

7 Due to the state of emergencies declared by Governor Newsom and the President Trump, plus  
 8 the large number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Los Angeles County, and in consideration of most  
 9 grand jurors generally being over the age of 60, which places these individuals in the high-risk  
 10 category for contracting COVID-19.

11 Both the California Constitution and the penal code require the Court to impanel at least one  
 12 civil grand jury each year. However, there is no statutory date on which the civil grand jury must be  
 13 impaneled. The COVID-19 pandemic makes it difficult and impracticable to recruit, appoint, and  
 14 orient grand jurors needed to impanel a new civil grand jury.

15 Therefore, this Court **HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

- 16 1. There shall be a delay in the impaneling of the next civil grand jury; and
- 17 2. The term of the current civil grand jury shall be extended until a new civil grand jury is  
 18 impaneled.

19  
 20 **THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT**  
 21 **UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

22  
 23  
 24 Dated: May 7, 2020



25 *Kevin C. Brazile*  
 26 KEVIN C. BRAZILE  
 27 Presiding Judge  
 28