

AUG 05 2020

TONY R. MOORE, CLERK

BY  DEPUTY

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

**NINTH SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER REGARDING
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
CREATED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

On March 16, 2020, this court entered an Order recognizing the exigent circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic and issued an order concerning court operations for the Louisiana Western District. On March 17, 2020, this court entered a First Supplemental Order restricting public access to our intake counters in our offices located in Alexandria, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe and Shreveport. On June 26, 2020, this court entered an Eighth Supplemental Order further extending the restriction of public access to our intake counters located in Alexandria, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe and Shreveport, which is set to expire on September 13, 2020.

The Court reiterates and adopts the findings on this matter contained in the prior orders. The Court further finds that the pandemic continues and indeed may not have reached its peak in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health authorities continue to recommend social distancing as a means of limiting further community spread of COVID-19. The State of Louisiana has issued various orders directing all Louisiana residents to shelter at home and limit movements outside of their

homes beyond essential needs. The State of Louisiana is in a “Phase II Reopening” as of the date of this order. Governor John Bel Edwards announced that Louisiana will stay in Phase II, as the number of COVID-19 cases and related hospitalizations have started to rise in several regions across the state, including areas within the Western District of Louisiana. The Governor has continued Phase II on multiple occasions in an attempt to level the number of new cases throughout the State of Louisiana. The unpredictable continued spread of COVID-19 within this state and this district strongly suggests a lengthy pause in the conduct of jury trials.

In light of these findings and recommendations, the Court orders the following:

IT IS ORDERED all provisions of the “Order Regarding Court Operation Under The Exigent Circumstances Created By The COVID-19 Pandemic” issued on March 16, 2020, the “First Supplemental Order Regarding Court Operations Under The Exigent Circumstances Created By The COVID-19 Pandemic” issued on March 17, 2020 and the “Eighth Supplemental Order Regarding Court Operations Under The Exigent Circumstances Created By The COVID-19 Pandemic” issued on June 26, 2020, are hereby extended through January 3, 2021.


1. Any events involving the Court that are not case-specific, including, but not limited to, continuing legal education courses, public tours, administration of oaths to attorneys, and naturalization ceremonies conducted by the Court which are scheduled to occur between the date

of this order and January 3, 2021, are hereby cancelled and may be rescheduled as appropriate on or after January 4, 2021.

2. Public access to the Louisiana Western District Clerk of Court Offices in the Alexandria, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe and Shreveport Divisions may resume on January 4, 2021.
3. Both civil and criminal jury trials may resume on January 4, 2021. All bench trials, hearings, conferences, and or proceedings are subject to the discretion of the trial judge presiding over the case.

Unless extended, modified or rescinded, this Order will expire on January 4, 2021.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED, in Shreveport, Louisiana, and effective this 5th day of August, 2020.


S. MAURICE HICKS, JR.
CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA