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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 IN RE:) ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
11) 22-004
12 CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC)
13 EMERGENCY)
14 RESUMPTION OF JURY TRIALS ON)
15 FEBRUARY 22, 2022)
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17 WHEREAS, in March 2020, the President of the United States declared a
18 national emergency and the Governor of the State of California declared a state of
19 emergency in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and
20 both declarations have been extended and remain in effect;

21 WHEREAS, throughout the pandemic, the Court has implemented temporary
22 procedures to protect public health and safety;

23 WHEREAS, on June 15, 2021, the Court resumed normal operations per
24 General Order 21-08;

25 WHEREAS, on January 3, 2022, in response to the alarming surge of COVID-
26 19 cases in the Central District of California largely due to the spread of the extremely
27 transmissible Omicron variant of the virus that causes COVID-19, the Executive
28 Committee approved a three-week suspension of all civil and criminal jury trials;

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2022, Order of the Chief Judge 22-001 was issued to
implement the three-week suspension of jury trials;

1 WHEREAS, on January 18, 2022, in light of a substantial increase of COVID-
2 19 cases among court personnel and in the counties of the Central District of
3 California, the Executive Committee approved extending the temporary suspension of
4 jury trials through February 28, 2022, and the next day, Order of the Chief Judge 22-
5 002 was issued to implement the extension of the temporary suspension of jury trials;

6 WHEREAS, since issuing Order of the Chief Judge 22-002, the number of
7 COVID-19 cases among court personnel and in the counties of the Central District of
8 California has significantly decreased;

9 WHEREAS, due to this downward trend, terminating the suspension of jury
10 trials before February 28, 2022 is appropriate as community transmission of COVID-
11 19 within the Central District of California will soon reach a level at which conducting
12 jury trials will no longer place court personnel, attorneys, parties, and prospective
13 jurors at great risk of contracting COVID-19; and

14 WHEREAS, February 22, 2022 is the earliest date by which jury trials can
15 resume because of the manner in which jurors are called in for service;

16 Upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee, the Chief Judge orders as
17 follows:

- 18 • Civil and criminal jury trials shall resume on February 22, 2022.
- 19 • For the reasons stated above and in Orders of the Chief Judge 22-001 and
20 22-002, the suspension of criminal jury trials in the Central District of
21 California serves the ends of justice and outweighs the interests of the
22 public and defendants in a speedy trial.
- 23 • On February 22, 2022, the operations of all divisions shall return to being
24 governed by General Order 21-08 until further notice.
- 25 • Per General Order 21-08, all individuals seeking entry to, or occupying,
26 the United States Courthouses or Probation and Pretrial Services Offices
27 in the Central District of California and everyone in the courtroom for in-
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1 court proceedings must follow the Centers for Disease Control and
2 Prevention's most recent guidance regarding face coverings or masks.

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4 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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6 Date: February 8, 2022



7
8 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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