

# United States District Court

for the  
Western District of North Carolina  
200 US Courthouse Building  
100 Otis Street  
Asheville, NC 28801

Martin Reidinger  
Chief United States District Judge

June 2020

Dear Citizen:

We are all living through difficult and trying times with the COVID-19 pandemic. The United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina remains in operation. We have a constitutional mandate to do so, as the Judiciary performs an essential function in our government and our society.

Jurors are a necessary and integral part of the essential function. We depend on you as a citizen to be willing to perform your service as a juror. The jury trial is so essential to our justice system that it is expressly called for in the Constitution (Article III, Section 2) and the Bill of Rights (Sixth and Seventh Amendments). Without jurors, there is no jury trial.

To date, no COVID-19 cases have been reported at the courthouse. Nevertheless, to provide for a safer environment and to help ease any anxieties potential jurors may have, we have implemented several health and safety precautions.

Included among these health and safety precautions are the following:

Upon your entering the courthouse:

Screening will be conducted by a nurse to mitigate the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus;

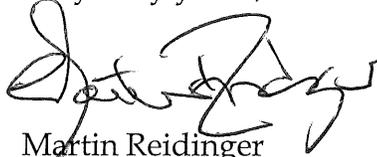
Individual supplies of hand sanitizer, masks, disinfectant wipes, personal water bottles, and gloves will be made available to each potential juror; and

Following CDC guidance, the Court will maintain the recommended six foot social distancing by bringing in small groups of jurors and expanding seating areas throughout the jury selection process.

If selected to serve as a juror, you will sit in the gallery of the courtroom, not in a jury box, in order to allow for proper social distancing. In addition, the court staff and all parties and witnesses will be located in the well of the courtroom, separated from the jury by the trial bar. Likewise, cleaning and sanitizing of the courthouse will be repeated throughout the day.

The Court will do its part to provide a healthier and safer environment for you to fulfill your civic duty as a citizen of the United States. We thank you, in advance, for your unselfish service to our community. Without you fulfilling this critical role, our justice system does not work. Please review the COVID-19 Jury Questions below and respond, if necessary.

Very truly yours,



Martin Reidinger  
Chief United States District Judge

#### U.S. DISTRICT COURT COVID-19 JURY QUESTIONS

Your participation is an important part of the precautionary measures necessary to protect you and others in the courthouse. Please answer truthfully the following questions:

1. Have you been diagnosed with, or had close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with, COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
2. Have you experienced any cold or flu-like symptoms in the past 14 days (including fever, cough, sore throat, respiratory illness or difficulty breathing)?
3. Do you have an underlying medical condition that puts you at higher risk of developing serious health complications from COVID-19?
4. Do you live with or provide direct care for a vulnerable person?
5. Do you have children at home who require your direct supervision due to school and/or daycare closings and for whom you have NO ONE else available to you who can provide care during your jury service?

If you have answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, please contact the Jury Administrator at (828) 771-7208.