

**DEC 31 2020**

By: A. Husted, Deputy

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**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**  
**CENTRAL DIVISION**

**IN RE: LIVESTREAM BROADCASTING** ) **GENERAL ORDER OF THE PRESIDING**  
 ) **DEPARTMENT**  
 ) **ORDER NO. 010121-40**  
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The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause significant health and safety concerns nationally, throughout the State of California, and in San Diego County. In response to the pandemic, the court was closed to the public and suspended services, except for certain time-sensitive and essential functions, from March 17 to May 22, 2020. (See General Orders of the Presiding Department, Order Numbers 031820-34, 040320-39, and 043020-47.)

The court resumed most services by May 26, 2020; however, with community spread of COVID-19 still a concern, many services were provided remotely or in the lobby area of each courthouse, and all courthouses and courtrooms remained closed to the public with limited exceptions for those seeking or participating in certain urgent emergency services.

Beginning September 10, 2020, the court opened public access to certain portions of its facilities, including business offices and audio/video access rooms, with capacity limits to allow for adequate social distancing. However, due to the pandemic and the governmental guidance and

1 restrictions in response thereto, the court plans to continue providing many services remotely,  
2 including most hearings. Accordingly, most courtrooms and portions of the courthouses remain  
3 closed to the public.

4 The court remains cognizant of the general presumption in favor of allowing public and  
5 media access to court proceedings; however, such access is neither absolute nor unrestricted and  
6 may be limited where there is a compelling interest that cannot be achieved through less restrictive  
7 means. The court has provided, and will continue to provide, media access for the duration of the  
8 restricted public access, subject to prior approval pursuant to the procedures outlined in the  
9 California Rules of Court, the San Diego Superior Court Rules, and General Order of the Presiding  
10 Department, Order No. 010121-02. In addition, in an effort to provide expanded public access to  
11 court proceedings consistent with its constitutional obligations, the court began providing public  
12 access to live audio streams of certain court proceedings on or around May 13, 2020, and the court  
13 intends to continue this practice for the duration of the restrictions on in-person public access.

14 For good cause and pursuant to the court's inherent supervisory and administrative authority, as  
15 well as the Presiding Judge's duty to promote access to justice for all members of the public, taking  
16 into account the needs of the public and court as they relate to the efficient and effective  
17 management of the court (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.603), and in order to protect the health and  
18 safety of the public, court personnel, judicial officers, parties, attorneys, witnesses, and law  
19 enforcement officers, this court HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

20 Until further notice, the court will broadcast live audio streams of certain court proceedings as  
21 follows:

22 a. The health and safety concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic necessarily  
23 require restricting the public's physical access to observe court proceedings, and there is no less  
24 restrictive means by which to accomplish full public access and social distancing under the current  
25 recommendations of governmental health authorities.

26 b. The court will broadcast, and the public may simultaneously access, live audio  
27 streams of certain court proceedings via the court's YouTube channel, to which links will be  
28 available on the court's website on the court's COVID-19 page ([www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov)).

1 c. However, each judge retains the discretion and authority to refuse, limit, or terminate  
2 such broadcasts, in whole or in part, pursuant to the factors and prohibitions articulated in California  
3 Rules of Court, rule 1.150, and in consideration of other statutory and constitutional provisions.

4 d. The livestreamed court proceedings may not be photographed, recorded (audio or  
5 video), or re-broadcast by anyone without prior written judicial authorization consistent with  
6 California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, and San Diego Superior Court General Order of the Presiding  
7 Department, Order No. 010121-02.

8 e. This order does not restrict or otherwise abrogate the express and inherent authority  
9 of the court and its judges to provide for the orderly conduct of proceedings.

10 THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT  
11 UNTIL OTHERWISE ORDERED BY THE PRESIDING JUDGE.

12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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14 DATED: December 31, 2020

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17 **HONORABLE LORNA A. ALKSNE**  
18 **PRESIDING JUDGE**  
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