IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

ORDER NO. 8205

Update regarding relaxing Administrative Rule 50(b)(1) &(2) and Administrative Rule 50(a)(3)(B)

In some court proceedings, the requirements of Administrative Rule 50 must be relaxed to facilitate the technology in use for media and public access. The first section of this order relaxes Administrative Rule 50(b)(1) & (2) regarding media access to proceedings at Anchorage Jail Court when the Alaska Court System is closed on the weekends. The second section of this order relaxes Administrative Rule 50(a)(3)(B) during the COVID-19 pandemic for presumptive death trials held by videoconference. Under the authority of Supreme Court Order No. 1957,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. During the COVID-19 pandemic, from Friday at noon through Sunday, the media may call into court proceedings at Anchorage Jail Court without requesting prior approval. The reporter shall identify their presence and if he or she wants to use an electronic device to record, the reporter shall request permission from the judicial officer overseeing the hearing.

2. The court system may stream a presumptive death trial that is held by videoconference including jurors, witnesses, and the judge to be accessible to the public on the internet for the duration of the trial.

DATED: November 2, 2020

Joel H. Bolger
Chief Justice

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