IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

May 28, 2020

NO. 20-8500-020

IN THE MATTER OF
RECOMMENCING JURY TRIALS
DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

ORDER

WHEREAS, this Court suspended civil and criminal jury trials until May 29, 2020, in Order No. 20-8500-013 in light of the ongoing public health emergency;

WHEREAS, the evolving nature of the public health emergency will permit the recommencement of jury trials in a manner that is consistent with the latest precautionary measures recommended by public health officials for reopening New Mexico in a safe and gradual manner that is based on the local circumstances and available resources in each judicial district; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, and the Court wishing to begin the recommencement of jury trials and being sufficiently advised, Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura, Justice Barbara J. Vigil, Justice Michael E. Vigil, Justice C. Shannon Bacon, and Justice David K. Thomson concurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that civil and criminal jury trials may recommence between June 15, 2020, and July 15, 2020, in each judicial district pursuant to individualized plans submitted by the chief judge in each

judicial district for approval by this Court;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each judicial district's plan for recommencing jury trials shall incorporate all of the precautionary measures this Court has previously ordered for the safe operation of courthouses in New Mexico, provided that the fifteen (15)-person maximum gathering restriction previously ordered by this Court may be exceeded if a minimum of six (6) feet in each direction between every individual can be maintained while entering, inside, and exiting the courthouse;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each judicial district shall submit a plan to this Court for recommencing civil and criminal jury trials at least fourteen (14) days before the date that the judicial district plans to resume jury selection and jury trial gatherings; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order shall remain in effect until amended or withdrawn by future order of this Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

WITNESS, the Honorable Judith K. Nakamura, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of said Court this 28th day of May, 2020.

Joey D. Moya, Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico