

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

**COVID-19
GENERAL ORDER NO. 20-6
April 24, 2020**

This order is being issued in continued response to the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in the United States, the State of Louisiana and specifically New Orleans, Louisiana. The World Health Organization has declared that COVID-19 qualifies as a global pandemic, having spread across more than 190 countries and territories with more than 861,000 confirmed cases in the United States and 25,739 (as of this order) in Louisiana. New Orleans, where the Eastern District of Louisiana federal courthouse is located, continues to lead the state with 6,263 coronavirus cases in Orleans Parish.

The President of the United States, Governor of the State of Louisiana, and the Mayor of the City of New Orleans have declared a public health emergency throughout the country, State and the City, respectively in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health authorities have recommended social distancing as a means of limiting further community spread of COVID-19; and

The State of Louisiana has issued a Stay at Home Order directing all Louisiana residents to shelter at home and limit movements outside of their homes beyond essential needs;

Accordingly, to combat the spread of the disease, given the severity of risks posed to the public, Court staff, and other Court agencies, and considering the public health recommendations from the CDC, the undersigned as Chief Judge of the United States District

Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana hereby issues the following order, which amends COVID-19 General Order 20-2 to extend certain deadlines addressed therein:

1. All civil and criminal jury trials currently suspended until May 1, 2020 are hereby further suspended until August 1, 2020 and will be reset by each presiding judge. Those continuances do not continue any pending deadlines other than the trial dates. Attorneys should contact the presiding judges in their continued cases if they seek to modify such other deadlines.
2. With respect to other matters requiring in-person appearances, including bench trials, hearings, conferences or other proceedings in either civil or criminal matters between the date of this order and August 1, 2020, counsel must contact the presiding judge's chambers to determine whether and how the matter will proceed.
3. For reasons given above and below, all grand jury proceedings in this District are suspended until August 1, 2020, subject to change upon motion from the government and further orders of the Court.
4. With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of the recommendations from the above public health organizations on the ability of counsel and Court staff to be present in the courtroom, the time period of the postponements implemented by this administrative order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the postponements outweigh the best interest of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy trial, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A).
5. All events involving the Court or scheduled to be held in the courthouse that are not case-specific, including, but not limited to, continuing legal education courses, public tours, Inns of Court meetings, and naturalization ceremonies conducted by the Court, which are scheduled to occur between May 1, 2020 and August 1, 2020, are hereby cancelled and will be rescheduled when appropriate.

The public is encouraged to use online Court resources for the Court <http://www.laed.uscourts.gov> or contact the Court by telephone with any questions. The District Court Clerk's Office Intake Unit may be reached at (504) 589-7674 and the Pro Se Unit may be reached at (504) 589-7751.

This order will remain in effect until further order of the Court.

IT IS ORDERED.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 24th day of April, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nannette Jolivet Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**NANNETTE JOLIVETTE BROWN
CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**