FILED CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT December 7, 2020 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA BY: flatelie &. California BY: flatelie &. California
DISTRICT COURT
ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUDGE 20-179

WHEREAS, in March of this year, the President of the United States declared a national emergency and the Governor of the State of California declared a state of emergency in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic—both declarations remain in effect;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised the taking of precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19, including limiting close face-to-face contact with others and reducing the size of in-person gatherings;

WHEREAS, the Court has issued General Orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic public emergency, implementing temporary emergency procedures;

WHEREAS, since the Court implemented those emergency procedures, there recently has been an unprecedented surge of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and test positivity rates in the Central District;

WHEREAS, due to this alarming rise in the level of community spread of COVID-19 throughout California, the State has issued a regional stay-at-home order to avoid further overwhelming hospitals and to prevent the need to ration care, which goes into effect, and remains in effect for at least three weeks, in a region when the Intensive Care Unit ("ICU") availability in that region falls below 15%;

WHEREAS, the State's regional stay-at-home order went into effect in the Southern California region, which includes the entire Central District, on December 6, 2020 because ICU availability in the region has fallen below 15%;

In consultation with the Executive Committee, to protect public health and safety, the Chief Judge orders as follows:

The Continuity of Operations ("COOP") Plan for the Central District of California is hereby activated, effective December 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. through and including January 8, 2021. The COOP Plan may be extended or inactivated as necessary.

The activation of the COOP Plan is necessary to ensure the continuous performance of essential functions and operations of the Court.

The following actions will be taken pursuant to the COOP Plan:

- All Courthouses of the Central District of California will be closed to the public except for hearings on criminal duty matters, as discussed below.
- No in-person hearings will go forward except for hearings on criminal duty matters, as discussed below.
- In civil cases, all appearances will be by telephone or video conference.
- Criminal bench duty will continue to take place in each division by telephone or video conference with the defendant's consent and in court absent consent. All criminal document duty will be handled by each

division in the normal course of business. In other criminal matters, all appearances will be by telephone or video conference.

- Jury trials remain suspended.
- All regularly scheduled grand jury proceedings are suspended and grand jurors will not otherwise be required to report for service or to call in to the United States Attorney's Office for reporting purposes during the period for which grand jury proceedings are suspended.

• The Bankruptcy Court will issue separate guidance.

• Chambers staff will be directed to telework except as otherwise directed by their assigned judicial officer. The Clerk of Court will implement a telework policy for the staff of the Clerk's Office and the Probation and Pretrial Services Office at her discretion.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: December 7, 2020

JUS R.

CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE