

## **Response to COVID-19 and Related Coronavirus (Judge Martin)**

Effective March 17, 2020, and continuing through and including May 1, 2020 (unless otherwise ordered), based on the General Orders Regarding Closing of Court Facilities Created by COVID-19 and Related Coronavirus (2020-06) Regarding Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19 and Related Coronavirus (2020-05), U.S. Magistrate Judge John E. Martin has adopted the following policies to mitigate the exposure, transmission, and spread of all versions of coronavirus:

- (1) Everyone is encouraged to conduct necessary court business through electronic or telephonic means.
- (2) All settlement conferences presently scheduled to occur between March 17 and May 1, 2020, are vacated and shall be rescheduled to a date after May 15, 2020.
- (3) All civil court proceedings (including without limitation hearings, pretrial conferences, and Rule 16(b) conferences) shall be conducted by telephone or teleconference.
- (4) With the consent of individual defendants, all initial appearances and arraignment hearings in criminal cases shall be conducted by video-teleconference (VTC).
- (5) For detention hearings, the parties are directed to confer and advise the Court if an in-person detention will be waived by the defendant, or whether either party is seeking a continuance. A defendant who does not object to detention should, before the date of the detention hearing, notify chambers either orally (through counsel) or in writing that the defendant has no objection to detention and is waiving the detention hearing. Any such waiver would be without prejudice to the court's reconsideration of the issue of pretrial release at a later date.
- (6) The United States Marshal Service is authorized to adopt any necessary procedures and/or protocols to implement these Court directives.

(7) The Court Security Officers are authorized and directed to maintain appropriate social distancing and compliance with these directives during in-person hearings.