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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 IN RE:

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12 CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC
13 EMERGENCY

14 TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF JURY
15 TRIALS

ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
22-001

(Temporarily Supersedes
General Order 21-08, In Part)

16 WHEREAS, in March 2020, the President of the United States declared a
17 national emergency and the Governor of the State of California declared a state of
18 emergency in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and
19 both declarations have been extended and remain in effect;

20 WHEREAS, throughout the pandemic, the Court has implemented temporary
21 procedures to protect public health and safety;

22 WHEREAS, the Court resumed normal operations on June 15, 2021;

23 WHEREAS, there is currently an alarming surge of COVID-19 cases
24 nationwide and in the Central District of California largely due to a new variant of the
25 virus that causes COVID-19—Omicron;

26 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises
27 that: (i) it expects a surge of COVID-19 cases in the coming days to weeks; (ii) the
28 Omicron variant is likely more transmissible than the original virus that causes

1 COVID-19; (iii) it expects anyone with Omicron infection can spread the virus to
2 others (even if they are vaccinated or do not have symptoms); and (iv) breakthrough
3 infections in people who are fully vaccinated are likely to occur;

4 WHEREAS, there has recently been an increase of suspected and confirmed
5 COVID-19 cases within the courthouses of the Central District of California;

6 WHEREAS, given the increased rate of transmission of COVID-19 in the
7 Central District of California due to the Omicron variant, conducting jury trials would
8 place court personnel, attorneys, parties, and prospective jurors at undue risk; and

9 WHEREAS, a temporary suspension of jury trials is necessary to protect public
10 health and safety, as well as ensure the continuous performance of essential functions
11 and operations of the Court;

12 Upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee, the Chief Judge orders as
13 follows:

- 14 • Effective immediately, all civil and criminal jury trials shall be suspended
15 for a period of three weeks.
- 16 • Due to the current risks associated with conducting jury trials, the
17 suspension of criminal jury trials in the Central District of California
18 serves the ends of justice and outweighs the interests of the public and
19 defendants in a speedy trial.
- 20 • Per General Order 21-08, all individuals seeking entry to, or occupying,
21 the United States Courthouses or Probation and Pretrial Services Offices
22 in the Central District of California and everyone in the courtroom for in-
23 court proceedings must continue to follow the CDC's most recent
24 guidance regarding face coverings or masks.

