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9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
10 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 IN RE:
12 CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC
13 EMERGENCY
14 SUSPENSION OF GRAND JURIES
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ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
20-044

16 WHEREAS on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a
17 proclamation declaring a National Emergency in response to the Coronavirus Disease-
18 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic pursuant to the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C.
19 § 1601, *et seq.*);

20 WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California has declared a state of
21 emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak;

22 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended
23 that throughout the United States, all gatherings should be limited to no more than 10
24 people;

25 WHEREAS, local public health departments have recommended that large
26 gatherings be avoided, that elderly and other vulnerable populations avoid person-to-
27 person contact, and that employers allow employees to work remotely to the extent
28 practical;

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2 WHEREAS, to date, thousands of people within the Central District of
3 California have been confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 and the number of
4 those infected continues to rise, causing an emergency pandemic;

5 WHEREAS, the Court has issued General Orders No. 20-02 and 20-03, and
6 Orders of the Chief Judge No. 20-042 and 20-043, in response to the COVID-19 public
7 emergency, suspending jury selection and jury trials through April 13, 2020; finding that
8 any continuance mandated by the Court's orders is excludable from the Speedy Trial Act
9 under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A); activating the Court's Continuity of Operations Plan;
10 and implementing other temporary emergency procedures;

11 WHEREAS, since the Court took action to implement those emergency
12 procedures, COVID-19 has continued to spread among the population of the Central
13 District of California;

14 WHEREAS, for the reasons previously set forth in those orders, grand jury
15 proceedings cannot be conducted without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety,
16 including the health and safety of grand jurors;

17 WHEREAS, an order suspending and continuing grand jury proceedings will not
18 prejudice matters for which a complaint has issued but a grand jury has not had the
19 opportunity to determine whether to return an indictment. *See* 18 U.S.C. §§ 3161(b) (if
20 no grand jury has been in session in the district during the 30-day period following a
21 defendant's arrest or service of a summons, the period of time for presenting the case to
22 the grand jury shall automatically be extended an additional 30 days beyond the ordinary
23 indictment deadline), 3161(h)(7)(A) (any period of delay shall be excluded under the
24 Speedy Trial Act if, after "set[ting] forth, in the record of the case, . . . its reasons for
25 finding that the ends of justice served by the granting of such continuance outweigh the
26 best interests of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial," a court grants a
27 continuance of the indictment deadline based on the "ends of justice");
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