

**YUKEVICH | CAVANAUGH**  
**CALIFORNIA COURT UPDATE**

**June 8, 2020**

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Below is the status of each California federal courts and superior courts in the major Southern California counties. Please contact James Yukevich if you have a question about the status of any case, anywhere.

Also, you may find it helpful to visit the following website which has updated information on the status of all California state courts with links to all the courts' websites and COVID-19 orders: <https://support.onelegal.com/california-court-updates-covid-19>

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## California Federal Courts

The **Central District of California** COVID-19 order will remain in effect until at least June 22, 2020. All civil and criminal jury trials are continued. All filing deadlines remain in place in all cases. All hearings in civil cases will be conducted by video or telephonic conference.

The Central District has adopted a plan for phased resumption of operations. The court intends to reopen the courthouses for limited in-court hearings but not before June 22, 2020. The resumption of jury trials will be implemented on a date to be determined.

The **Eastern District of California** COVID-19 order remains in effect. All courthouses are closed, and no civil or criminal jury trials will be held until further notice. All civil matters will be decided on the papers. If the assigned judge believes a hearing is necessary, it will be conducted by telephone or video conference. This applies to motion hearings, case management conferences, pretrial conferences, and settlement conferences.

The **Northern District of California** announced that no new jury trials will be conducted through September 30, 2020. Individual judges may offer bench trials by videoconference in lieu of postponement. Through September 30, all civil

motions will be decided “on the papers” submitted. If the assigned judge believes a hearing is necessary, it will be held by telephone or videoconference.

The **Southern District of California** announced that as of May 15, 2020 the judges may, in their discretion, conduct proceedings – except for jury trials – in all civil cases. It will be up to the individual judge assigned in each case to decide how to handle civil cases and whether to further extend deadlines.

### **California State Courts – Major Southern California Counties**

The current status of the California Superior Courts differs depending on the county.

#### **Los Angeles County**

The **Los Angeles County Superior Court**’s COVID-19 emergency order will be extended to July 13, 2020. Only “time-sensitive essential matters” will be heard during that time. However, the Clerk’s Office will reopen on June 15. The court has released its plan for reopening, which is as follows:

Civil law and motion hearings are set to re-start on July 13, 2020 in the Spring Street Courthouse. Motion hearings in all other courthouses are expected to restart by July 27. Deadlines to file motions to compel, motions for summary judgments, demurrers, etc. are not extended by the court closures.

The court has official stated that civil non-jury trials will likely start in July and jury trials will restart in late August. However, in a recent webinar, the chief judge stated that this is “optimistic” and that there is a possibility that civil jury trials may not restart until 2021.

The Los Angeles County Superior Courts have released a new platform for remote appearances at hearings. It’s called LA Court Connect. For more information please go to the court’s website at [lacourt.org](http://www.lacourt.org) and click the link for the “Here For You, Safe For You” News Center or use this link:

<http://www.lacourt.org/newsmedia/ui/HfySfy.aspx>

### Orange County

**Orange County** reopened courthouses for “limited services” starting on May 26. The court also began processing civil filings once again on May 26. Civil trials that were scheduled to begin as of or after March 17, 2020 are being continued approximately 25 weeks. Unlimited civil case hearings, including law and motion matters, that were set as of March 17 were rescheduled approximately 13 weeks from the original hearing date with notice to all parties. Hearings will resume the week of June 15, 2020. Different departments in Orange County are using different procedures or software for remote appearances. Please use the following: link in the attachment to the court’s statement on which software to use

in each department: [https://www.occourts.org/media-relations/covid/Civil Limited Unlimited & Complex Information & Appearance Process.pdf](https://www.occourts.org/media-relations/covid/Civil_Limited_Unlimited_&_Complex_Information_&_Appearence_Process.pdf)

### Riverside County

In **Riverside County**, beginning on June 8 the Riverside Historic Courthouse, the Family Law Court, and the Palm Springs Courthouse will reopen for the limited purpose of hearing “emergency matters,” including restraining order applications and ex parte applications. The Clerk’s Office is accepting new civil filings but only through its website electronically or at the courthouse dropboxes. All hearings on civil pretrial motions and demurrers have been vacated. New hearings may be scheduled as needed through the Law and Motion System on the court’s website, [www.riverside.courts.ca.gov](http://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov). All civil unlimited jury and court trials previously set have been vacated and trial setting conferences have been scheduled in their place. All other civil hearings – such as case management conferences and trial setting conferences – remain on calendar and will be made in chambers by the assigned judges to either address the matter or continue the hearing.

Please use this link for more information on the court restoring services in civil matters:

<https://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/GeneralInfo/MediaInfo/NewsReleases/COVID-19-Rescinding-Holiday-Civil.pdf>

Please use this link to review the Riverside County Courts' Master Plan to Restore Court Services (civil cases are discussed starting on p. 13)

<https://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/GeneralInfo/MediaInfo/NewsNotices/Master-Plan-Restoring-Court-Services.pdf?rev=06-08-2020-11:11:17am>

### San Bernardino County

**San Bernardino County** began partially reopening on May 28, 2020. The court is hearing certain matters, including civil harassment with violence and civil ex parte applications where the parties appear by Court Call. Previously scheduled civil hearings on demurrers, motions, status conferences, and trial setting conferences will resume on June 8. Hearings that were set between March 17 and May 28 have been rescheduled, and new dates are available on the court's website [www.sb-court.org](http://www.sb-court.org). Please use the following link for Information Regarding Court Reopening Plans and a short informational video: <https://www.sb-court.org/general-information/information-regarding-court-reopening-plans>

Please use the following link for San Bernardino County's "Roadmap to Reopening – Civil": <https://www.sb->

[court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToReopeningCivil.pdf](http://court.org/sites/default/files/General%20Information/RoadmapToReopeningCivil.pdf)

### San Diego County

**San Diego County** is now open for most business operations. Court hearings are limited to video or telephone conference only. For motions that were on calendar in cases assigned to a Civil Independent Calendar Department, parties have been ordered to meet and confer on whether the motions are still necessary and, if so, the moving party must schedule a Status Conference with the court through the court's website at [sdcourt.ca.gov](http://sdcourt.ca.gov). Status Conferences will only be held for six weeks starting on June 1. Motions that were taken off calendar due to the closure will not be rescheduled unless a Status Conference is held within the six-week period from June 1 to July 10, 2020. Trials that were calendared between March 17 and May 22, 2020 will be continued automatically approximately 180 days. The court will provide notice to the parties of the rescheduled date and time.

For more information on civil trials and hearings in San Diego County please use the following link to the court's Frequently Asked Questions:

<http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/SDCOURT/GENERALINFORMATION/COVID-19INFO/CIVIL%20FAQS%20-%20COVID%2019.PDF>