UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

IN RE: SUSPENSION OF JURY   )
TRIALS IN DECEMBER 2020   )   G.O. 20-26
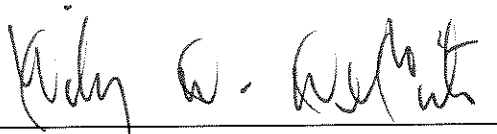
O R D E R

On November 4, 2020, the Court issued G.O. 20-23. That order notified the bar that the Court would conduct limited criminal and civil jury trials in December 2020. In the last week, however, new cases of COVID-19 have increased dramatically, with the seven-day average of new cases exceeding 2,700. In addition, the rate of hospitalizations for persons affected by COVID-19 is at an all-time high, with a seven-day average of 133 people a day being hospitalized statewide. In light of the surge of new cases, the Court has determined to continue the limited jury trials set on the December 2020 docket, to be reset by the presiding judge. The presiding judge will also address trial-related deadlines. With respect to criminal cases, the Court finds:

1. As of November 22, 2020, the Oklahoma State Department of Health has identified 174,330 positive cases of COVID-19, and the majority of these cases are in the Western District of Oklahoma.

2. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to recommend against large indoor gatherings, which limits the number of people who should be in the courthouse.

3. While the steps the Court has taken to keep court staff, parties, counsel, and jurors safe have thus far been effective, given the greater prevalence of cases and the

severity of the community spread, the Court finds a greater restriction on the number of people interacting in person with the Court is warranted.

Therefore, the period of delay resulting from continuances implemented as a result of this Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering continuances outweigh the best interests of the public and each defendant to a speedy trial. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

ENTERED for the Court this 23rd day of November, 2020.

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TIMOTHY D. DeGIUSTI
Chief United States District Judge