

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

FILED

DEC 09 2020

CARMELITA REEDER SHINN, CLERK
U.S. DIST. COURT, WESTERN DIST. OKLA.
BY CRS, DEPUTY

IN RE: SUSPENSION OF JURY)
TRIALS AND GRAND JURY) G.O. 20-27
SESSIONS IN JANUARY 2021)

ORDER

In light of the significant number of new cases of COVID-19, together with the increased rate of hospitalizations for persons affected by COVID-19 and the anticipated surge of cases in January 2021 due to travel over the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Court has determined to continue civil and criminal jury trials set on the January 2021 docket, to be reset by the presiding judge. In civil cases, trial-related deadlines are not continued unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge. Trial-related deadlines in criminal cases, however, are continued and will be set by the presiding judge when the case is reset on a jury docket. In addition, with respect to criminal cases, the Court finds:

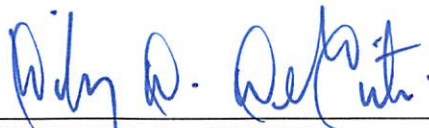
1. As of December 8, 2020, the Oklahoma State Department of Health has identified 220,686 positive cases of COVID-19, the majority of which are in the Western District of Oklahoma.
2. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to recommend against large indoor gatherings, which limits the number of people who should be in the courthouse at the same time.
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).

In light of current conditions and the anticipated surge in COVID-19 cases in January 2021, the Court finds that suspension of January grand jury sessions is also warranted to reduce the possibility of exposure of grand jurors, Court staff, witnesses, and counsel to COVID-19. Therefore, the grand jury sessions on January 5, 2021 and January 19, 2021 are cancelled.

ENTERED for the Court this 9th day of December, 2020.



TIMOTHY D. DeGIUSTI
Chief United States District Judge