

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

**FILED**

JAN 05 2021

IN RE: SUSPENSION OF JURY )  
TRIALS AND FIRST GRAND JURY ) G.O. 21-1  
SESSION IN FEBRUARY 2021 )

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

**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, the Court has determined to continue civil and criminal jury trials set on the February 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:

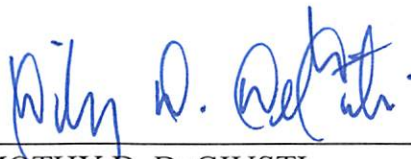
1. As of January 5, 2021, the Oklahoma State Department of Health has identified 308,268 positive cases of COVID-19, an increase of more than 85,000 cases in a month. The majority of the positive cases are in the Western District of Oklahoma.
2. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to recommend against large indoor gatherings, which limits the number of people who should be in the courthouse 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 continued 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, the Court finds that suspension of the first February grand jury session is also warranted to reduce the possibility of exposure of grand jurors, Court staff, witnesses, and counsel to COVID-19. Therefore, the February 2, 2021 grand jury session is cancelled. The February 16, 2021 grand jury session will be held as scheduled, absent further order of the court.

ENTERED for the Court this 5th day of January, 2021.



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TIMOTHY D. DeGIUSTI  
Chief United States District Judge