UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA



IN RE: APRIL 2021 JURY TRIALS) G.O. 21-4



ORDER

The Court will conduct limited criminal jury trials in April 2021. Counsel will be advised by the presiding judge if their case is set on the April 2021 docket. All other criminal jury trials on the April 2021 docket are continued, to be reset by the presiding judge who will also address trial-related deadlines. The court finds that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a factor in the Western District of Oklahoma, with more than 425,000 Oklahomans testing positive for the disease and more than 7,300 deaths. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") continues to recommend against large gatherings, which limits the number of prospective jurors who should be called for service. In addition, the CDC recommends continued social distancing, which effectively limits the number of jury trials that can be conducted at one time in order for the jurors to maintain appropriate social distancing. These factors counsel in favor of continuing all but a limited number of criminal trials. 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).

The Court will also conduct a limited number of civil jury trials in April 2021. In addition, those judges who are scheduled to hold criminal jury trials may place civil cases from their April 2021 trial dockets on a trailing docket to be tried if the selected criminal matter is resolved before trial. Counsel will be advised by the presiding judge if their civil case is set on the April 2021 docket. Otherwise, civil jury trials on the April 2021 docket are continued, to be reset by the presiding judge. The presiding judge will also address trial-related deadlines.

ENTERED for the Court this 10 of March, 2021.

TIMOTHY D. DeGIUSTI

Chief United States District Judge