

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

IN RE:

Misc. No. 20- 088 (GAG)

CORONA VIRUS (COVID19) PUBLIC  
EMERGENCY

**ORDER CONCERNING JURY TRIALS AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT OF PUERTO RICO**

The Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Mayor of the Municipality of San Juan, have respectively declared a public health emergency throughout Puerto Rico in response to the spread of the COVID- 19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and other public health authorities have advised the taking of precautions to reduce the exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease.

To protect public health, and to reduce the size of public gatherings and unnecessary travel, the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico hereby issues the following order:

1. The Clemente Ruiz Nazario and José V. Toledo United States courthouses will remain open for business, subject to the following limitations.

2. With the exception of current ongoing trials, effective immediately, all jury trials in the District of Puerto Rico scheduled to begin on Monday, March 16, 2020 and through May 29, 2020 are continued pending further order of the Court. The Court may issue other orders concerning future continuances as necessary and appropriate.

3. The Court finds that the ends of justice served by the time granted in any continuance entered because of this order outweighs the interests of the parties and the public in a speedy trial, and therefore shall be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Absent further order of the Court or any individual judge, the period of exclusion shall be from Monday, March 16, 2020 and through May 29, 2020. The Court may extend the period of exclusion as circumstances may warrant.



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4. Judges may continue to hold hearings, conferences, and bench trials in the exercise of their discretion, consistent with this order. At their discretion and where practicable, judges may to conduct court proceedings by telephone or video conferencing.

5. Criminal matters before Magistrate Judges, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings, and the issuance of search warrants, shall continue to take place in the ordinary course.

6. The Clerk's Office, Probation Office, and all other Court services shall remain open pending further order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 13<sup>TH</sup> of March 2020.



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Gustavo A. Gelpí  
Chief, US District Judge