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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

IN RE:
HEARINGS BY VIDEO OR
TELEPHONE AS AUTHORIZED BY
THE CARES ACT

GENERAL ORDER 17-20

This General Order is being issued with regard to this Court’s prior response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak and the enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES Act”) on March 27, 2020. Pursuant to Sections 15002(b)(1) and 15002(b)(2)(A) of the Act, on March 29, 2020, the Judicial Conference of the United States found that emergency conditions due to the national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. § 1601 *et seq.*) with respect to COVID–19 will materially affect the federal courts generally.

On March 30, 2020, this Court issued General Order No. 04-20 finding that, pursuant to § 15002(b)(2)(A) of the CARES Act, certain criminal proceedings could not

1 be conducted in person without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety. The Court
2 therefore authorized the use of video conferences or telephone conferences for those
3 proceedings. This authorization was renewed on June 25, 2020, in General Order No. 09-
4 20, and again on September 24, 2020, in General Order No. 14-20.
5

6 Ninety days after such an order, the chief judge must “review the authorization and
7 determine whether to extend the authorization.” § 15002(b)(3)(A). I have reviewed the
8 current procedures of the Court and the daily COVID-19 data from the counties in the
9 Western District of Washington and conclude that, in the interest of public health
10 and safety, the procedures set forth in General Order No. 04-20 must be extended
11 another 90 days from today’s date.
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14 IT IS SO ORDERED.

15 Dated this 23rd day of December, 2020.
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RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE