## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA



IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19 AND RELATED CORONAVIRUS

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-09**

In response to the recent outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") in the District of Nevada, the Court has issued a series of Administrative Orders. Those orders were issued in an effort to help contain the spread of COVID-19 through actions consistent with federal and state guidance, while still affording the public access to justice through the Court. (See Administrative Orders 2020-03 through 2020-08, inclusive).

Administrative Order 2020-04 provided that effective March 16, 2020, all trials and hearings which required the presentation of evidence in the form of live witness testimony that were pending before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada, including all associated pre-hearing and pre-trial deadlines, were continued and were to be reset to a date no sooner than April 10, 2020, pending further order of this Court.

Since Administrative Order 2020-04 was issued, the Court has continued to closely monitor available official information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court also remains committed to continuing its service to the public during the COVID-19 outbreak, while taking prudent action to protect individuals involved in bankruptcy cases and Court employees from transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

In view of the significant number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19 within the District of Nevada and nationally, the severity of the related health risk posed to the public, and in order to effectuate existing public health recommendations and guidance, the Court concludes that it is again necessary to continue all currently scheduled evidentiary hearings and trials requiring live witness testimony in order to protect and promote the health and safety of the parties, the witnesses, and Court personnel.

## IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, effective Friday, April 10, 2020:

- 1) All currently scheduled trials and hearings which require the presentation of evidence in the form of live witness testimony, including all associated pre- hearing and pre-trial deadlines, are continued and shall be reset to a date no sooner than <u>June 30, 2020</u>, pending further Court order;
- 2) All currently scheduled hearings which do not require the presentation of evidence in the form of live witness testimony shall remain on calendar as scheduled and will be heard telephonically; and
- 3) All future hearings which do not require the presentation of evidence in the form of live witness testimony shall be heard telephonically absent further order of the Court.

Trials and evidentiary hearings requiring live witnesss testimony that are currently scheduled for dates <u>after June 30, 2020</u>, are not impacted by this Administrative Order 2020-09. However, future events related to the COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate additional continuances through subsequent Administrative Orders. Parties and their counsel are therefore strongly encouraged to closely monitor the Court's website for future developments at the following link:

https://www.nvb.uscourts.gov/rules-forms/rules/administrative-orders/

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Administrative Order 2020-09 shall be construed as the amendment called for at page 3 of Administrative Order 2020-04.

Dated this 9th day of April, 2020.

AUGUST B. LANDIS CHIEF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

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