

**EFFECTIVE**  
July 1, 2020

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**  
**DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS UNDER  
PHASE 2 OF THE NEVADA UNITED:  
ROADMAP TO RECOVERY REOPENING  
PLAN

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-14**

In response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic in the District of Nevada and nationally, the Court previously issued a series of Administrative Orders. Those orders were temporary in nature. They were issued in an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Nevada through actions consistent with federal and state guidance, while still affording the public access to justice through the Court. See *generally*, Administrative Orders 2020-03 through 2020-09, inclusive (collectively the “COVID-19 Administrative Orders”).

Since the COVID-19 Administrative Orders were 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 Court employees and all stakeholders in the bankruptcy process from transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

On March 24, 2020, pursuant to its authority under 28 U.S.C. § 332(d)(1), the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council adopted a Policy Regarding Electronic Conduct of Court Proceedings During the COVID-19 Virus Outbreak (the “Circuit Policy”). Pursuant to the Circuit Policy, bankruptcy courts within the Ninth Circuit are authorized to conduct court proceedings through electronic means, including audio, video, and/or the

1 internet, until the Judicial Council determines that the Circuit Policy is no longer  
2 required.

3 In accord with the Circuit Policy, the Court issued Administrative Order 2020-09,  
4 which amended and extended Administrative Orders 2020-04 and 2020-05.  
5 Collectively, those Administrative Orders provided that all matters not requiring the  
6 presentation of evidence in the form of live witness testimony would be conducted  
7 telephonically, and for the continuance of all trials and evidentiary hearings requiring  
8 live witness testimony to dates after June 30, 2020.<sup>1</sup>

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10 Subsequent to the issuance of the Circuit Policy and Administrative Order 2020-  
11 09, the Court developed the technology needed to effectively conduct trials and  
12 evidentiary hearings that require live witness testimony via videoconference. In  
13 addition, the Court has developed social distancing, hygiene, and other protocols  
14 necessary to conduct in-person hearings in courtroom facilities on a limited basis  
15 while minimizing the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Resultantly, in-person hearings  
16 may also be scheduled, in the discretion of the presiding judge, in those matters where  
17 evidence in the form of live witness testimony is essential.<sup>2</sup>

18 The Court is also mindful that Governor Sisolak announced that effective May  
19 29, 2020, Nevada was moving into Phase 2 of the “Nevada United: Roadmap to  
20 Recovery” reopening plan (“Reopening Phase 2”). In general terms, Reopening  
21 Phase 2 eased certain restrictions on Nevada residents’ ability to move about, and  
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24 <sup>1</sup> For clarity and avoidance of any doubt, Administrative Orders 2020-04, 2020-05, and 2020-09  
25 are being rescinded concurrently with the issuance of this Administrative Order 2020-14. This  
26 Administrative Order 2020-14 shall govern all bankruptcy proceedings conducted in the District of Nevada  
27 commencing on July 1, 2020, and continuing until further order of the Court.

<sup>2</sup> The development of effective videoconferencing technology, and the necessary protocols to  
permit in person hearings in our courtrooms on a limited basis, is the direct result of the tireless work of  
our Clerk of Court, Mary Schott, and her staff.

1 expanded business operations within the state in a limited manner subject to  
2 significant conditions designed to curb the spread of COVID-19.

3 Subsequent to Nevada's implementation of Reopening Phase 2 on May 29,  
4 2020, the number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19 has persisted within  
5 the District of Nevada as well as nationally. The Court remains mindful of the severity  
6 of the associated health risk posed to Court personnel and the public. Aware of those  
7 facts, the Circuit Policy, the provisions of Phase 2 of Governor Sisolak's plan, and after  
8 careful review of the COVID-19 Administrative Orders, the Court concludes that the  
9 issuance of a single Administrative Order governing Court operations that is consistent  
10 with recent developments, currently available technology, and permits the use of  
11 courtroom facilities on a limited basis in the discretion of the presiding judge, is  
12 warranted.  
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14 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, effective Wednesday, July 1, 2020:**

- 15 1) **All hearings which do not require the presentation of evidence in the**  
16 **form of live witness testimony** shall be heard telephonically absent further  
17 order of the Court.
- 18 2) **All currently scheduled trials and hearings which require the**  
19 **presentation of evidence in the form of live witness testimony** shall  
20 remain on calendar as scheduled, and will be heard either via  
21 videoconference or in person in discretion of the presiding judge in each  
22 case.
- 23 3) **The requirement of delivering courtesy copies to the Court under LR**  
24 **9014(e) is SUSPENDED.** This suspension will remain in effect absent  
25 further Court order, including any order entered by the presiding judge in a  
26 particular case.  
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1 Parties and their counsel are strongly encouraged to continue to closely monitor  
2 the Court's website for future developments at the following link:

3 <https://www.nvb.uscourts.gov/rules-forms/rules/administrative-orders/>  
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5 Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.  
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10 AUGUST B. LANDIS  
11 CHIEF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE  
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