

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION**

FILED

APR 29 2021

**CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BY HFO
DEPUTY CLERK**

IN THE MATTER OF ALL CRIMINAL
CASES WITH INDICTMENTS FILED
ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2020

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ORDER REGARDING THE RESUMPTION OF CRIMINAL JURY TRIALS

The Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division has entered various orders in criminal cases related to the COVID-19 pandemic and abating any Speedy Trial Act deadlines as a result. As the positivity rate in the San Antonio region has declined, the Court will resume criminal jury trials beginning on May 3, 2021. However, to maintain social distancing, it will be necessary to utilize three courtrooms on the first floor to conduct a jury trial. As a result, the criminal dockets of all the San Antonio judges will need to be coordinated and a master jury trial calendar established. By separate order the Court will abate any Speedy Trial Act deadlines because of the continuing pandemic, and the physical limitations of the John H. Wood, Jr. United States Courthouse to accommodate the necessary social distancing requirements recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health authorities.

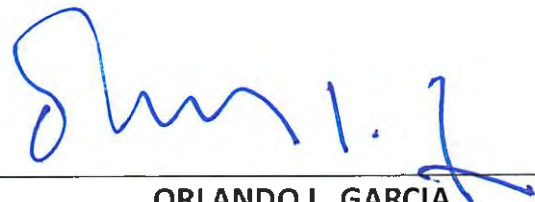
Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that in all criminal cases with indictments filed on or before March 1, 2020, all criminal defense counsel and Assistant U.S. Attorneys meet and confer, with the defendant physically present, no later than May 14, 2021. The conference shall take place at the John H. Wood Jr. United States Courthouse. Counsel will coordinate with the Divisional Clerk’s office and U.S. Marshal’s Service to determine a location, date and time and any transport of the Defendant to the courthouse.

It is further **ORDERED** that counsel shall, at a minimum, confer on the following topics:

1. Whether the case will be resolved by a plea agreement;
2. If the case will not be resolved by a plea agreement, how many trial days the parties estimate the case will require;
3. Whether the parties agree to a bench trial;
4. If either parties demand a jury trial, whether the parties consent to jury selection before a United States Magistrate Judge;
5. Whether any discovery issues remain;
6. Whether any motion to dismiss, motion to suppress, or motions to compel discovery are expected to be filed; and
7. A trial date that the parties reasonably expect that they will be ready to proceed.

By no later than 5:00 p.m. (CST) on the day the above-referenced conference is held, counsel shall communicate with the appropriate courtroom deputy as to each of the topics identified above, and what date the parties request that the case be placed on the Master Jury Trial calendar.

SIGNED on this 29 day of April, 2021.



ORLANDO L. GARCIA
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE