

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2020

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: JOHN W. DAVIS, CDCJ--9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

REGARDING: OPERATIONS OF DISTRICT COURTS-LIMITS ON
CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS ADDRESSED IN SESSIONS



AS A RESULT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S DIRECTIVE ENTERED ON 12/14/2020, REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE DISTRICT COURTS OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT WILL BE CANCELLED THROUGH **MONDAY DECEMBER 28, 2020**.

AS OF TODAY, ALL OF OUR COUNTIES' HEALTH DIRECTORS HAVE BEEN CONSULTED CONCERNING OUR COURT PLANS THAT WERE EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2020, AND SPECIFICALLY REGARDING COURT MATTERS AS ADDRESSED HEREIN IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT COVID CONDITIONS. THEIR ASSISTANCE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ALLOWING A RESUMPTION OF COURT ACTIVITIES AS FOLLOWS.

AS OF **DECEMBER 29, 2020**, and EXCEPT FOR **CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT** SESSIONS, ALL REGULARY SCHEDULED SESSIONS OF DISTRICT COURT WILL BE OPEN AND WILL OPERATE UNDER THE EXISTING PROTOCOLS PUT INTO EFFECT JUNE 1, 2020, AND AS SET OUT IN THE SEPARATE EXPANSION ORDERS FOR EACH TYPE OF COURT.

AS OF **DECEMBER 29, 2020**, REGULARLY SCHEDULED SESSIONS OF **CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT** WILL BE OPEN AND WILL OPERATE UNDER THE EXISTING PROTOCOLS PUT INTO EFFECT JUNE 1, 2020. **IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING PROTOCOLS THAT REMAIN IN EFFECT**, EACH CRIMINAL COURT SESSION WILL ONLY ADDRESS A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS; SAID MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS FOR SESSIONS WAS ROUGHLY CALCULATED AS THREE TIMES THE NUMBER OF COVID AUDIENCE SEATING CAPACITY FOR THE UTILIZED COURTROOM ROUNDED DOWN TO THE NEAREST

TEN. TO THAT END, AND UPON THE RESUMPTION OF CRIMINAL SESSIONS, THE MAXIMUM NUMBERS OF DEFENDANTS PER SESSION FOR EACH OF OUR COUNTIES ARE AS FOLLOWS: 1. FRANKLIN - 110; 2. GRANVILLE - 130; 3. PERSON – 70; VANCE – 90 and WARREN – 90.

I HOPE THAT THIS MODIFICATION TO CRIMINAL SESSIONS WILL BE THE LAST NEEDED TO OUR PLANS, THAT COVID ISSUES WILL GO AWAY QUICKLY AND THINGS WILL GO BACK TO NORMAL SOON. **TO ALL OF YOU-- I GIVE MY SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE, UNDERSTANDING, HARD WORK AND PATIENCE WITH ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED AND WILL CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE FOR A WHILE LONGER AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC. I WISH FOR EACH OF YOU A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON.**
