UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

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In the matter of:

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19 AND RELATED CORONAVIRUS **GENERAL ORDER 20-3**

This General Order is being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the well-documented concerns surrounding this virus. The President of the United States has declared a public health emergency in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the Governor of the State of Arizona has declared a public health emergency throughout the state. In order to protect public health through the aim of reducing the size of public gatherings, as well as balancing the fair administration of justice, <u>effective</u> <u>immediately</u>:

- 1. Unless otherwise ordered, all trials and hearings which require the presentation of evidence, including witness testimony, that are currently scheduled between the dates of March 18, 2020 and April 10, 2020 before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona, are vacated and will be reset by order of the Judge assigned to the case. All associated pre-hearing and pre-trial deadlines will likewise be reset to track the rescheduled trial date.
- 2. All other hearings, unless otherwise ordered or unless otherwise stated herein, which are calendared between March 18, 2020 and April 10, 2020, shall remain on calendar but shall be conducted telephonically, with no live appearances permitted in the courtrooms. Parties are to follow each judge's procedures regarding telephonic appearances, which information is available at the following link: http://www.azb.uscourts.gov/procedures.

- 3. All mediations scheduled between March 18, 2020 and April 10, 2020 shall be conducted telephonically or reset to a later date by the judge assigned to the settlement.
- 4. All non-case related events currently scheduled to be conducted in the Bankruptcy Court courthouses within the District of Arizona are cancelled pending further notice.

This Order does not affect other aspects of Bankruptcy Court operations within the District of Arizona. Parties are advised to closely monitor the Court's website at the following link to stay apprised of future developments impacting Bankruptcy Court operations and case administration: http://www.azb.uscourts.gov/.

This General Order may be vacated, amended, or extended as necessary.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this M day of March, 2020.

FOR THE COURT:

Honorable Brenda Moody Whinery, Chief Judge