

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

IN RE:

CORONA VIRUS (COVID19) PUBLIC  
EMERGENCY

Misc. No. 20-0088 (GAG)

**ORDER REGARDING VIRTUAL COURTROOM SYSTEM**

On March 15, 2020, the Court issued an *Order Concerning Proceedings Before the United States District Court of Puerto Rico*, Misc. No. 20-088 (GAG) (Docket No. 3) continuing all civil and criminal proceedings until March 30, 2020.

Given the quarantine measures taken by local and federal governmental agencies, and the uncertainty of how long they will remain in place, the Court hereby issues the following ORDER:

1. All civil and criminal proceedings in the District of Puerto Rico are continued until Wednesday April 15, 2020.

2. After April 15, 2020, the Court will operate through a virtual courtroom system. The Court has enabled a Video Tele-Conferencing (“VTC”) system that will allow all judges to hold civil and criminal hearings and conferences. Attorneys will receive advanced notification of their participation in a VTC hearing or conference and will be provided instructions on how to connect to the Court’s VTC system.

3. Criminal hearings that require the presence of defendants (i.e. Sentencing Hearings, Changes of Plea Hearings, etc.) will be held using the VTC system available at MDC and the Bayamón State Penitentiary. For those hearings, counsel of record must be present in Court.

4. The Clerk’s Office will continue to operate with essential personnel only until further notice.

5. The Court may issue other orders concerning future continuances as necessary and appropriate.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2020.



Gustavo A. Gelpí  
Chief, US District Judge