

All Counsel –

As you have undoubtedly heard, all departments in the Sacramento Superior Court have received an Order from Presiding Judge Russell Hom directing that all non-essential court functions be suspended (placed on “holiday”, if you will) from 18 March 2020 to and including 16 April 2020. Understandably, the Civil Settlement Program, though extremely important, is not considered as critical to the community as other court functions such as criminal arraignments, emergency protective orders, etc.

As a result of the Presiding Judge’s Order, and because this department cannot absolutely guarantee that MSC’s in Department 59 can be properly staffed on 17 April, I have vacated all MSC’s, and their corresponding trial dates, and I have returned your case to the Trial Setting Program. This order applies to all MSC’s scheduled from this date to and including 1 May 2020.

If your case has previously been granted preference, or if there is another legal reason why it should proceed as previously scheduled, please bring that matter to my attention, or to the attention of the Presiding Judge, as soon as possible.

As a final matter, the voluntary settlement conference (“VSC”) program is hereby suspended indefinitely.

My clerk, Dayo, and I wish you well in this historic time for our country and our court. We hope and pray that you and your families stay safe and well. Thank you for your understanding.

Hon. Ben Davidian
Supervising Judge
Department 59
Civil Settlement Center