



# PRESS RELEASE

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SUPERIOR COURT OF  
CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
247 West Third Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, Ca 92415-0302  
[www.sb-court.org](http://www.sb-court.org)

909-708-8747

Michael A. Sachs  
Presiding Judge

Nancy CS Eberhardt  
Court Executive Officer

## **SBSC CONDUCTS ITS FIRST REMOTE CIVIL JURY TRIAL**

SAN BERNARDINO, CA— San Bernardino Superior Court (SBSC) is pleased to announce the launch of its first fully remote civil jury trial in Department S24 , with Judge Gilbert Ochoa Presiding. The civil jury trial resumed remotely via Zoom on Monday, August 30, 2021, out of an abundance of caution due to circumstances and safety protocols stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The trial began on July 19, 2021, during a time when COVID-19 protocols had been recently modified to align with updated State and local guidance related to facial coverings and physical distancing (for details see [General Order](#)). With the more recent increases in positive COVID-19 cases and COVID-19 related deaths in San Bernardino County, the Court issued a Fourth Amendment to General Order on July 21, 2021, reinstating face covering requirements, effective July 26, 2021 (for details see [General Order](#)).

In response to concerns about continued safety given the recent COVID-19 related changes, the parties agreed to a remote civil jury trial for the remainder of the trial. As part of this effort, jurors received training, computers, and have the ability to appear from home or onsite at a designated court location. The Court is pleased to be able to support this remote effort and looks for continued ways to leverage technology to ensure continued safety and access to the courts.

For media related inquiries, contact Julie Van Hook, Communications and Public Affairs Officer via [courts-pio@sb-court.org](mailto:courts-pio@sb-court.org).