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Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

NOTICE TO ATTORNEYS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 11, 2021

LARGEST TRIAL COURT IN THE NATION INTRODUCES PROGRAM TO ALLOW ATTORNEYS, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO LISTEN REMOTELY TO HEARINGS TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTHOUSES

Effective Monday, January 11, 2021, attorneys and members of the public, including the news media, will be able to listen remotely to nonconfidential court proceedings throughout the Superior Court of Los Angeles County using the Court's new Remote Audio Appearance Program (RAAP).

"We are implementing this new tool as part of our ongoing effort to ensure public access during the pandemic and to enforce social distancing requirements in Los Angeles County courthouses," Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor said.

RAAP enables users with a smart phone, tablet or computer with internet service to establish a remote connection to courtrooms and listen to nonconfidential court proceedings. The Court is pleased to offer RAAP as part of its [Here For You | Safe For You](#) initiative. The Court strongly encourages the use of its new convenient remote audio option, which requires users to create a Court ID and password and then register for remote **listen-only** audio access for **each** hearing. **Attorneys Please Note:** You can use your existing Court ID and password you created for the Attorney Portal to sign in to RAAP.

IMPORTANT: Under California Rules of Court 1.150, photography, recording and/or broadcasting of any court proceeding, whether remotely or in-person, is prohibited without a

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written order from the judicial officer presiding over the matter. **The Court will not authorize any recording or broadcast of proceedings via RAAP.**

To get started and for more information, go to this link:

<http://www.lacourt.org/newsmedia/ui/CourtroomSeating.aspx>. RAAP will be available for use for hearings starting Monday, January 11, 2021.

RAAP will be the preferred option for public access to courtroom proceedings. However, when members of the public do not have the required equipment to use RAAP, a limited number of courtroom seats for in-person attendance will remain available for persons authorized to enter courthouses under [2020-GEN-025-00](#) as well as members of the public who obtain prior judicial approval through the existing email submission process.

Under [2020-GEN-025-00](#), access to Los Angeles County courthouses is restricted at all times to judicial officers, court staff, co-lessees, Judicial Council staff, vendors, jurors, mediators, authorized persons (which includes, but is not limited to, news media representatives and news reporters), attorneys, litigants and witnesses with matters on calendars, and individuals with confirmed appointments.

Marsy's Law

Please note that RAAP is available as an option for victims or qualifying individuals to remotely attend proceedings who do not need to appear or participate in court because it is **listen-only**. Please do not submit written requests for in-person seating for these individuals unless they lack the equipment to use RAAP or for some other compelling reason to be approved by the court.

For victims or qualifying individuals who need to appear, to testify or otherwise to participate in proceedings remotely, please inquire with the Court about arranging their use of Webex.

Witnesses

Witnesses with matters on calendar are authorized to enter courthouses under 2020-Gen-025-00. However, to reduce the number of people coming to court, parties are strongly encouraged to explore options for remote appearances by witnesses via Webex and LACourtConnect.

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In-Person Courtroom Seating

Every courtroom maintains at least one (1) available seat for media representatives and at least one (1) available seat for members of the public, with prior approval, during nonconfidential proceedings. These designated seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis when members of the public do not have a smart phone, tablet or computer with an internet connection to listen remotely to court proceedings using RAAP. Any other seats will be available to the extent allowable by social distancing protocols and at the discretion of the presiding bench officer.

More information about the request and judicial approval process for In-Person Courtroom Seating is available here: <http://www.lacourt.org/newsmedia/ui/CourtroomSeating.aspx>.

RAAP's launch expands the Court's remote courtroom access options as part of its [Here For You | Safe For You](#) initiative, which provides numerous protective measures to operate courthouses safely. Whether appearing or listening to proceedings by phone, from home, the office or coming to the courthouse, the Court provides safe, efficient options to access justice. The Court's remote courtroom appearance technology options in all 600 courtrooms across the county promote social distancing by reducing the number of people appearing in person. More information is available on the Court's Twitter page [@LASuperiorCourt](#).

Issued by: Sherri R. Carter
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court

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