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Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

NEWS RELEASE

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COURTWIDE EXPANSION OF REMOTE COURTROOM APPEARANCE TECHNOLOGY WILL OFFER CONVENIENT, SAFE OPTIONS TO ACCESS JUSTICE IN NATION'S LARGEST TRIAL COURT

Introducing LACourtConnect, a Court-Developed Remote Appearance Technology for Probate, Civil, Family Law & Traffic Cases

Attorneys and self-represented litigants will have the option to make audio or video appearances in Los Angeles County courtrooms by using the Court's new LACourtConnect technology that will provide a secure, safe and convenient way to attend hearings remotely. A key element of the Court's new *Here For You | Safe For You* restoration of services and access to justice, LACourtConnect will contribute to social distancing requirements and dramatically change the traditional in-person courtroom appearance model.

"LACourtConnect will provide a safe and convenient alternative to coming through the courthouse doors to appear for your hearing," Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile said. "As we restore court operations on June 15 and gradually resume hearings beginning June 22, we want to assure litigants and attorneys the Court will open its doors with infection control measures, social distancing and face covering requirements."

LACourtConnect will be first available in Civil Settlements and Probate matters on calendar the week of June 22 and thereafter. Throughout the rest of the summer, LACourtConnect will launch in phases for all Limited Civil, Unlimited Civil and Complex, Family Law, and Traffic courtrooms. Future notices will provide specific implementation dates.

The Court extends its gratitude and appreciation to CourtCall for its many years of valuable remote appearance services at the Court, including during recent weeks in which the Court has encouraged remote attendance at emergency and essential proceedings.

During the next few months of LACourtConnect's phased implementation, CourtCall's existing remote appearance services will remain available to attorneys and self-represented litigants at the \$94 rate, set under the applicable California Rules of Court, in courtrooms and litigation

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areas where LACourtConnect has not yet launched. CourtCall's gracious cooperation and support during this transition will ensure that court users have as many opportunities to appear remotely as possible.

ATTORNEYS

A new exclusive, secure Attorney Portal will serve as the one-stop place to access LACourtConnect and its other resources. Attorneys are encouraged to:

- Effective June 7, **create** their Court ID through the Attorney Portal.
- Effective June 15, **schedule** remote appearances for Probate and Civil Mandatory Settlement Conferences only through the Attorney Portal.

More information will be released soon about the Attorney Portal and its benefits.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS

Beginning June 15, self-represented litigants may schedule remote appearances for Probate hearings on calendar June 22 and later. Visit the Court's website to schedule hearings and for more information.

FEES

In order to make the option of remote appearance widely available to all court users during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic period, cost recovery fees for LACourtConnect will be:

- \$15 for each audio appearance;
- \$23 for each video appearance; and
- Free for individuals with fee waivers.

"I want to thank our Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Sherri R. Carter for her continuing efforts to introduce new technology which not only improves the services the Court provides to court users and the legal community, but also addresses these unprecedented health and safety concerns," Presiding Judge Brazile said. "The COVID-19 pandemic – and the Court's response – will lead to lasting changes in court operations as we develop and introduce even more technology solutions to modernize the largest trial court in the nation."

LACourtConnect will provide the following benefits:

- Promote convenience and choice through cost-effective audio and video options;
- Reduce the number of court visitors, which assists with social distancing protocols;
- Eliminate driving and parking costs; and
- Save commute time to courthouses.

The Court's other remote courtroom appearance technology – Court-hosted video Webex – will

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be expanded to new litigation areas and added to more Criminal courtrooms. By the end of August 2020, the Court will have remote appearance technology in 580 courtrooms.

Here For You | Safe For You focuses on providing a safe courthouse environment and offering expanded choices to conveniently conduct court business remotely – which promotes social distancing by reducing the number of people appearing in person. Whether appearing by phone, from home, the office or coming to the courthouse, *Here For You | Safe For You* provides safe, efficient options to access justice.

Information on *Here For You | Safe For You* can be found on the Court’s website (www.lacourt.org) and Twitter page page (@[LASuperiorCourt](https://twitter.com/LASuperiorCourt)).

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



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