

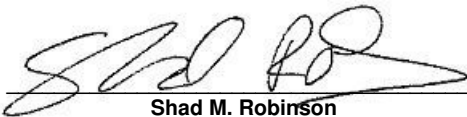
SIGNED this 14th day of April, 2023.

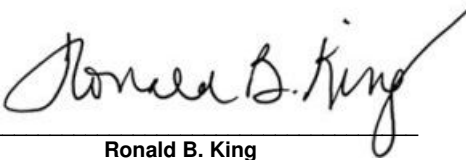



Craig A. Gargotta
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge


H. Christopher Mott
United States Bankruptcy Judge


Michael M. Parker
United States Bankruptcy Judge


Shad M. Robinson
United States Bankruptcy Judge


Ronald B. King
United States Bankruptcy Judge

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

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**ORDER VACATING
STANDING ORDERS ENACTED IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

On April 10, 2023, the President of the United States signed into law a Joint Resolution ([H.J. Res. 7](#)), which effectively ends the national emergency declared in 2020. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act will expire on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

Although this Court remains concerned with the health and safety of litigants, counsel, staff from other agencies, and court employees, the time has come to return to full normal operations in all divisional offices of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas.

Effective May 11, 2023, the following standing orders, provided in full as Exhibit 1, shall be vacated;

20-02	Order Regarding Court Operations in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Texas	03/17/2020
20-03	Interim Standing Order Regarding Authorizing Electronic Signatures	03/23/2020
20-05	Interim Standing Order Regarding Chapter 13 Confirmation Hearings	03/23/2020
20-06	Standing Order Adopting Amendments to Interim Bankruptcy Rule 1020 to Implement the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act	04/21/2020
20-07	Amended Order Regarding Court Operations in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Texas	05/29/2020
20-10	Amended Order Regarding Court Operations in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Texas	11/16/2020
21-01	Amended Order Regarding Court Operations in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Texas	06/15/2021
21-03	Amended Order Regarding Court Operations in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Texas	11/02/2021

This order does not prevent or prohibit a Judge from ordering that a particular case or proceeding be conducted in-person, by video conference, teleconference, an internet-based meeting application, or in some other manner authorized by a Judge.

It is **SO ORDERED**.

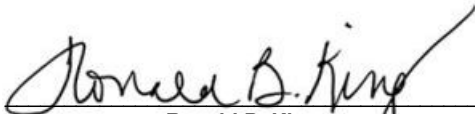
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Exhibit 1

**STANDING ORDERS ENACTED IN
RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC**

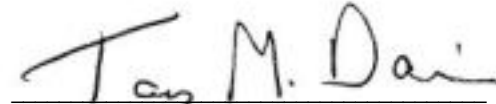
SIGNED this 17th day of March, 2020.




Ronald B. King
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge


Craig A. Gargotta
United States Bankruptcy Judge


H. Christopher Mott
United States Bankruptcy Judge


Tony M. Davis
United States Bankruptcy Judge

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

§

**ORDER REGARDING
COURT OPERATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

There have been several confirmed cases of the coronavirus identified in divisional cities throughout the Western District of Texas. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidance on how the public can protect themselves. One of the best ways to prevent the illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. The CDC has recommended social distancing as a method to help slow or prevent the spread of COVID-19. This Court is concerned with the health and safety of the litigants, counsel, staff from other agencies and Court employees that risk exposure while participating in hearings.

Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED that effective **Monday, March 23, 2020 until further notice**, all court proceedings held in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas shall be conducted by telephone conference.

The teleconference number for each respective Judge's court is as follows;

Chief Judge Ronald B. King	(888)278-0296 Access Code 9198559
Judge Craig A. Gargotta	(877)336-1831 Access Code 5045963
Judge H. Christopher Mott	(888)363-4734 Access Code 8640852
Judge Tony M. Davis	(877)873-8018 Access Code 7700035

This order does not prevent or prohibit a Judge from ordering or directing that a particular case or particular proceeding be conducted in-person, by televideo conference or in some other manner authorized by a Judge.

For concerns or requests regarding evidentiary proceedings, contact the appropriate Judge's Courtroom Deputy:

Deanna Castleberry (King)	Deanna_Castleberry@txwb.uscourts.gov
Lisa Elizondo (Gargotta)	Lisa_Elizondo@txwb.uscourts.gov
Ronda Farrar (Mott)	Ronda_Farrar@txwb.uscourts.gov
Jennifer Lopez (Davis)	Jennifer_Lopez@txwb.uscourts.gov

This order does not extend to first meetings of creditors.

###

SIGNED this 23rd day of March, 2020.



Ronald B. King

Ronald B. King
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

Craig A. Gargotta

Craig A. Gargotta
United States Bankruptcy Judge

H. Christopher Mott

H. Christopher Mott
United States Bankruptcy Judge

Tony M. Davis

Tony M. Davis
United States Bankruptcy Judge

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

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**INTERIM STANDING ORDER REGARDING
AUTHORIZING ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES**

In accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supporting social distancing as a method to curb the spread of COVID-19, the Court is concerned with limiting exposure and person to person contact.

Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED that effective **March 23, 2020 until further notice**, signatures of debtors, attorneys, affiants and declarants may be either received and maintained in “wet signature form” as per current practice or electronically signed utilizing commercially available digital signature technology (such as DocuSign or Adobe Digital Signature) which maintains an audit trail allowing the attorney to obtain the identification of the signer’s computer device from the commercial provider. All software must comply with the requirements of the United States ESIGN Act.

###

SIGNED this 23rd day of March, 2020.



Ronald B. King

Ronald B. King
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

Craig A. Gargotta

Craig A. Gargotta
United States Bankruptcy Judge

H. Christopher Mott

H. Christopher Mott
United States Bankruptcy Judge

Tony M. Davis

Tony M. Davis
United States Bankruptcy Judge

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

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**INTERIM STANDING ORDER REGARDING
CHAPTER 13 CONFIRMATION HEARINGS**

This Interim Standing Order extends the time in which chapter 13 plan confirmation hearings must be held under 11 U.S.C. Section 1324(b) from 45 days to 60 days after the conclusion of the meeting of creditors under section 341(a), unless the court orders otherwise in a particular case.

This action is necessary due to the potential delay in case processing as a result in the general district-wide moratorium on live, in-person court hearings and meetings of creditors under section 341(a) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

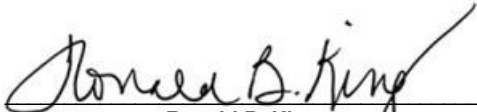
This Interim Standing Order shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

It is **SO ORDERED**.

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SIGNED this 21st day of April, 2020.





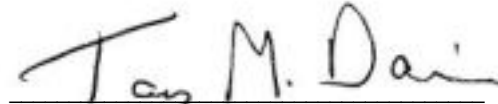
Ronald B. King
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge



Craig A. Gargotta
United States Bankruptcy Judge



H. Christopher Mott
United States Bankruptcy Judge



Tony M. Davis
United States Bankruptcy Judge

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

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**STANDING ORDER ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO
INTERIM BANKRUPTCY RULE 1020 TO IMPLEMENT THE
CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT**

Effective February 19, 2020, the judges of this Court entered Standing Order 20-01 adopting the Interim Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure related to the implementation of the Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019 (SBRA). Interim Rule 1020 was one of the rules adopted under the SBRA and reflects the new option for a small business debtor of proceeding under subchapter V of chapter 11.

Thereafter, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act modifies the definition of “debtor” for determining eligibility to proceed under subchapter V of chapter 11. Previously, 11 U.S.C § 1182(1) defined “debtor” under subchapter V as “a small business debtor.” A “small business debtor” is defined in § 101(51D) and requires that the prospective debtor have “aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts . . . in an amount not more than \$2,725,625”

(a figure subject to adjustment every three years under § 104). Under the CARES Act, § 1182(1) was amended to include a separate definition of “debtor” for subchapter V purposes that is identical to the definition of “small business debtor” in all respects except that the debt limitation is \$7,500,000. The definition of “debtor” in § 1182(1) will revert to its prior version one year after the effective date of the CARES Act. Accordingly, the Committee on Rules and Practice and Procedure of the Judicial Conference of the United States has further revised and adopted Interim Rule 1020, which makes applicable the new definition of "debtor" for determining eligibility to proceed under subchapter V of chapter 11.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2071, Rule 83 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Rule 9029 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, Interim Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 1020 is adopted in its entirety without change by the judges of this Court effective April 20, 2020. The Interim Rule shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

It is **SO ORDERED**.

###

Attachment

1 **Rule 1020. Chapter 11 Reorganization Case for Small**
2 **Business Debtors or Debtors Under Subchapter V**

3 (a) ~~SMALL—BUSINESS—DEBTOR~~
4 DESIGNATION. In a voluntary chapter 11 case, the debtor
5 shall state in the petition whether the debtor is a small
6 business debtor or a debtor as defined in § 1182(1) of the
7 Code and, if the latter so, whether the debtor elects to have
8 subchapter V of chapter 11 apply. In an involuntary chapter
9 11 case, the debtor shall file within 14 days after entry of the
10 order for relief a statement as to whether the debtor is a small
11 business debtor or a debtor as defined in § 1182(1) of the
12 Code and, if the latter so, whether the debtor elects to have
13 subchapter V of chapter 11 apply. The status of the case as
14 a small business case or a case under subchapter V of chapter
15 11 shall be in accordance with the debtor's statement under
16 this subdivision, unless and until the court enters an order
17 finding that the debtor's statement is incorrect.

18 (b) OBJECTING TO DESIGNATION. The United
19 States trustee or a party in interest may file an objection to
20 the debtor's statement under subdivision (a) no later than 30
21 days after the conclusion of the meeting of creditors held

22 under § 341(a) of the Code, or within 30 days after any
23 amendment to the statement, whichever is later.

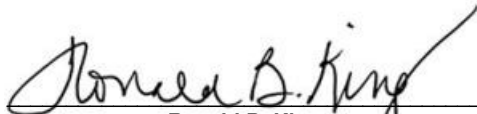
24 (c) PROCEDURE FOR OBJECTION OR
25 DETERMINATION. Any objection or request for a
26 determination under this rule shall be governed by Rule 9014
27 and served on: the debtor; the debtor’s attorney; the United
28 States trustee; the trustee; the creditors included on the list
29 filed under Rule 1007(d) or, if a committee has been
30 appointed under § 1102(a)(3), the committee or its
31 authorized agent; and any other entity as the court directs.


Committee Note

The interim rule is amended in response to the enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281. That law provides a new definition of “debtor” for determining eligibility to proceed under subchapter V of chapter 11. Subdivision (a) of the rule is amended to reflect that change. This amendment to the Code will terminate one year after the date of enactment of the CARES Act.

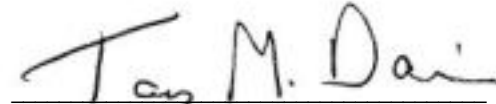
SIGNED this 29th day of May, 2020.




Ronald B. King
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge


Craig A. Gargotta
United States Bankruptcy Judge


H. Christopher Mott
United States Bankruptcy Judge


Tony M. Davis
United States Bankruptcy Judge

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

§

**AMENDED ORDER REGARDING
COURT OPERATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

This Amended Order is being issued in support of the Court's continued response to the thousands of confirmed cases of the coronavirus identified throughout the Western District of Texas. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidance on how the public can protect themselves. One of the best ways to prevent the illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. The CDC has recommended social distancing as a method to help slow or prevent the spread of COVID-19. This Court is concerned with the health and safety of the litigants, counsel, staff from other agencies and Court employees that risk exposure while participating in hearings.

Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED that effective **Friday, May 29, 2020 until further notice**, all court proceedings held in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas shall be conducted by telephone conference or by Webex video meeting.

The teleconference number for each respective Judge's court is as follows;

Chief Judge Ronald B. King	(888)278-0296 Access Code 9198559
Judge Craig A. Gargotta	(877)848-7030 Access Code 4494028
Judge H. Christopher Mott	(888)363-4734 Access Code 8640852
Judge Tony M. Davis	(877)873-8018 Access Code 7700035

The Webex video meeting link for each respective Judge's court is as follows;

Chief Judge Ronald B. King	https://ao-courts.webex.com/meet/King
Judge Craig A. Gargotta	https://ao-courts.webex.com/meet/Gargotta
Judge H. Christopher Mott	https://ao-courts.webex.com/meet/Mott
Judge Tony M. Davis	https://ao-courts.webex.com/meet/Davis

For detailed instructions on how to connect to a Webex hearing please refer to the Court's internet website at <https://www.txwb.uscourts.gov/txwbvirtualhearings>

This order does not prevent or prohibit a Judge from ordering or directing that a particular case or particular proceeding be conducted in-person, by another televideo conference platform or in some other manner authorized by a Judge.

For concerns or requests regarding evidentiary proceedings, contact the appropriate Judge's Courtroom Deputy:

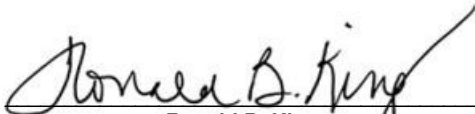
Deanna Castleberry (King)	Deanna_Castleberry@txwb.uscourts.gov
Lisa Elizondo (Gargotta)	Lisa_Elizondo@txwb.uscourts.gov
Ronda Farrar (Mott)	Ronda_Farrar@txwb.uscourts.gov
Jennifer Lopez (Davis)	Jennifer_Lopez@txwb.uscourts.gov

This order does not extend to first meetings of creditors.

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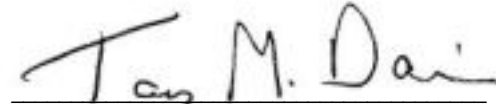
SIGNED this 17th day of November, 2020.




Ronald B. King
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge


Craig A. Gargotta
United States Bankruptcy Judge


H. Christopher Mott
United States Bankruptcy Judge


Tony M. Davis
United States Bankruptcy Judge

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

§

**AMENDED ORDER REGARDING
COURT OPERATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

This Amended Order is being issued to update teleconference and Webex video links utilized for hearings in support of the Court's continued response to the coronavirus pandemic throughout the Western District of Texas. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidance on how the public can protect themselves. One of the best ways to prevent the illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. The CDC has recommended social distancing as a method to help slow or prevent the spread of COVID-19. This Court is concerned with the health and safety of the litigants, counsel, staff from other agencies and Court employees that risk exposure while participating in hearings.

Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED that effective **Monday, November 16, 2020 until further notice**, all court proceedings held in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas shall continue to be conducted by telephone conference or by Webex video meeting using the following information.

The updated teleconference number for each respective Judge's court is as follows;

Chief Judge Ronald B. King	(650)479-3207 Access Code 160-686-6761
Judge Craig A. Gargotta	(650)479-3207 Access Code 160-591-1937
Judge H. Christopher Mott	(650)479-3207 Access Code 160-357-6609
Judge Tony M. Davis	(650)479-3207 Access Code 160-704-4630

The updated Webex video meeting link for each respective Judge's court is as follows;

Chief Judge Ronald B. King	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/King
Judge Craig A. Gargotta	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/Gargotta
Judge H. Christopher Mott	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/Mott
Judge Tony M. Davis	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/Davis

For detailed instructions on how to connect to a Webex hearing please refer to the Court's internet website at <https://www.txwb.uscourts.gov/txwbvirtualhearings>

This order does not prevent or prohibit a Judge from ordering or directing that a particular case or particular proceeding be conducted in-person, by another televideo conference platform or in some other manner authorized by a Judge.

For concerns or requests regarding evidentiary proceedings, contact the appropriate Judge's Courtroom Deputy:

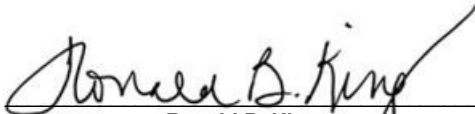
Deanna Castleberry (King)	Deanna_Castleberry@txwb.uscourts.gov
Lisa Elizondo (Gargotta)	Lisa_Elizondo@txwb.uscourts.gov
Ronda Farrar (Mott)	Ronda_Farrar@txwb.uscourts.gov
Jennifer Lopez (Davis)	Jennifer_Lopez@txwb.uscourts.gov


This order does not extend to first meetings of creditors.

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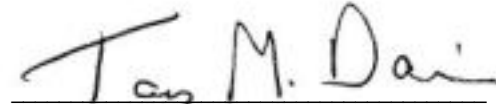
SIGNED this 15th day of June, 2021.




Ronald B. King
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge


Craig A. Gargotta
United States Bankruptcy Judge


H. Christopher Mott
United States Bankruptcy Judge


Tony M. Davis
United States Bankruptcy Judge

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

§

**AMENDED ORDER REGARDING
COURT OPERATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

This Amended Order is issued in support of this Court's efforts to resume normal operations in the Western District of Texas. Recognizing that guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to ease requirements for fully vaccinated individuals, and that the safety threat resulting from this public health crisis has reduced significantly, the court provides the following direction:

1. All proceedings held in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas shall be conducted pursuant to the hearing notice, either in-person, by Webex video meeting, by teleconference, or a combination of these methods.
2. Parties attending in-person proceedings shall follow the guidance posted at the public entrance in each facility. Those protocols apply to fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Within court facilities, any fully vaccinated individual may wear a mask and maintain social distancing if desired.
3. **Parties will follow any additional protocols ordered by a Judge in a specific proceeding.**
4. All proceedings held by Webex video meeting shall be accessed using the link for each respective Judge's court as follows:

Chief Judge Ronald B. King	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/King
Judge Craig A. Gargotta	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/Gargotta
Judge H. Christopher Mott	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/Mott
Judge Tony M. Davis	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/Davis

For detailed instructions on how to connect to a proceeding held by Webex, please refer to the Court's internet website at <https://www.txwb.uscourts.gov/txwbvirtualhearings>.

5. All proceedings held by teleconference shall be accessed by calling each respective Judge's court as follows:

Chief Judge Ronald B. King	(650)479-3207 Access Code 160-686-6761
Judge Craig A. Gargotta	(650)479-3207 Access Code 160-591-1937
Judge H. Christopher Mott	(650)479-3207 Access Code 160-357-6609
Judge Tony M. Davis	(650)479-3207 Access Code 160-704-4630

6. For questions or requests for accommodations for proceedings, please contact the appropriate Judge's Courtroom Deputy:

Deanna Castleberry (King)	Deanna_Castleberry@txwb.uscourts.gov
Lisa Elizondo (Gargotta)	Lisa_Elizondo@txwb.uscourts.gov
Ronda Farrar (Mott)	Ronda_Farrar@txwb.uscourts.gov
Jennifer Lopez (Davis)	Jennifer_Lopez@txwb.uscourts.gov

Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED that effective **Thursday, July 1, 2021**, all proceedings held in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas, unless otherwise noticed, shall be conducted in the manners stipulated in this order.

This order does not extend to first meetings of creditors.

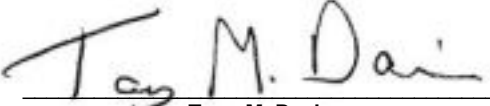
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SIGNED this 02nd day of November, 2021.

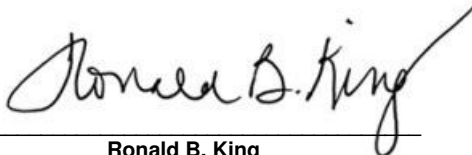



Craig A. Gargotta
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge


H. Christopher Mott
United States Bankruptcy Judge


Tony M. Davis
United States Bankruptcy Judge


Michael M. Parker
United States Bankruptcy Judge


Ronald B. King
United States Bankruptcy Judge

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

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**AMENDED ORDER REGARDING
COURT OPERATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

This Amended Order is issued in support of this Court’s efforts to resume normal operations in the Western District of Texas. Recognizing that guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to ease requirements for fully vaccinated individuals, and that the safety threat resulting from this public health crisis has reduced significantly, the court provides the following direction:

1. All proceedings held in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas shall be conducted pursuant to the hearing notice, either in-person, by Webex video meeting, by teleconference, or a combination of these methods.
2. Parties attending in-person proceedings shall follow the guidance posted at the public entrance in each facility. Those protocols apply to fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Within court facilities, any fully vaccinated individual may wear a mask and maintain social distancing if desired.

3. **Parties will follow any additional protocols ordered by a Judge in a specific proceeding.**
4. All proceedings held by Webex video meeting shall be accessed using the link for each respective Judge's court as follows:

Chief Judge Craig A. Gargotta	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/Gargotta
Judge H. Christopher Mott	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/Mott
Judge Tony M. Davis	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/Davis
Judge Michael M. Parker	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/Parker
Judge Ronald B. King	https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/King

For detailed instructions on how to connect to a proceeding held by Webex, please refer to the Court's internet website at <https://www.txwb.uscourts.gov/txwbvirtualhearings>.

5. All proceedings held by teleconference shall be accessed by calling each respective Judge's court as follows:

Chief Judge Craig A. Gargotta	(650)479-3207 Access Code 160-591-1937
Judge H. Christopher Mott	(650)479-3207 Access Code 160-357-6609
Judge Tony M. Davis	(650)479-3207 Access Code 160-704-4630
Judge Michael M. Parker	(650)479-3207 Access Code 2305-728-3687
Judge Ronald B. King	(650)479-3207 Access Code 160-686-6761

6. For questions or requests for accommodations for proceedings, please contact the appropriate Judge's Courtroom Deputy:

Lisa Elizondo (Gargotta)	Lisa_Elizondo@txwb.uscourts.gov
Ronda Farrar (Mott)	Ronda_Farrar@txwb.uscourts.gov
Jennifer Lopez (Davis)	Jennifer_Lopez@txwb.uscourts.gov
Deanna Castleberry (Parker and King)	Deanna_Castleberry@txwb.uscourts.gov

Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED that effective **Tuesday, November 2, 2021**, all proceedings held in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas, unless otherwise noticed, shall be conducted in the manners stipulated in this order.

This order does not extend to first meetings of creditors.

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