

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

In re: )  
)  
VACATING STANDING ORDER )  
20-10 AND REOPENING THE PUBLIC ) Standing Order 21-10  
AREAS OF THE CLERK'S OFFICE IN )  
ALL COURT DIVISIONS, )  
)

ORDER VACATING STANDING ORDER 20-10 AND REOPENING PUBLIC AREAS OF  
THE CLERK'S OFFICE EFFECTIVE JUNE 14, 2021

On March 27, 2020, this Court entered Standing Order 20-10, which closed the public areas of the Clerk's Office in all divisions due to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Standing Order 20-10 became effective on March 30, 2020, until further notice. Contemporaneously with the entry of Standing Order 20-10, the Court also entered Standing Order 20-9, which implemented temporary filing procedures to accommodate unrepresented parties, which include filing by mail, lock box, and email. *See* Standing Order 20-9 and Standing Order 20-19, which incorporated by reference Standing Order 20-9, as Exhibit A thereto, thereby extending the original Order's May 31, 2020, expiration date, until further notice.

In consideration of the significant, recent improvements in conditions in the Commonwealth of Virginia with respect to COVID-19,<sup>1</sup> the Court has determined that, barring

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<sup>1</sup>As of the date of this Standing Order, approximately 8.5 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in the Commonwealth and almost half of the population is fully vaccinated. *See* Va. Dep't of Health, <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine-summary/> (last visited June 9, 2021). Further, as of the date of this Standing Order, the seven-day percent positivity rate for PCR COVID-19 tests was just 2.1 percent. *See* Va. Dep't of Health, <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-in-virginia-testing/> (last visited June 9, 2021). The number of cases of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth is continuing on a downward trend, and the seven-day moving average of cases is at a low not seen since the beginning of the pandemic. *See* Va. Dep't of Health, <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-in-virginia-cases/> (last visited June 9, 2021). These improvements, along with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, have led the Governor of Virginia to begin lifting COVID-19 mitigation measures. *See* News Release, Office of the Governor, As Vaccinations Rise, Governor Northam Announces Expanded Capacity, Social Gathering Limits to Begin May 15 (April 22, 2021), <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/>

any material change in circumstances, it is now appropriate to reopen the public areas of the Clerk's Office to again provide in-person service to members of the public.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that **effective on June 14, 2021**, Standing Order 20-10 is VACATED and the public areas of the Clerk's Office in the Alexandria, Newport News, Norfolk, and Richmond Divisions of the Court will reopen to the public.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

**FOR THE COURT:**

  
FRANK J. SANTORO  
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

Dated: June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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[newsroom/all-releases/2021/april/headline-894593-en.html](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2021/april/headline-894593-en.html); News Release, Office of the Governor, Governor Northam Lifts Mask Mandate to Align with CDC Guidance, Announces Virginia to End COVID-19 Mitigation Measures on May 28 (May 14, 2021), <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2021/may/headline-895235-en.html>.