



**PER CURIAM**

**DECORUM ORDER**

NOW, January 21, 2022, after consultation with the Capitol Police and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) regarding the hearing in the above-captioned actions that is scheduled for January 27, 2022 and January 28, 2022, commencing at 9:30 a.m., in Courtroom 3001 (Courtroom), Third Floor, Pennsylvania Judicial Center (PJC), and to reduce the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus, the Court hereby **ORDERS** as follows:

1. Any schedule changes will be posted to the Court website and/or social media as soon as practicable.

2. The seating capacity of the Courtroom is limited to 23 persons. In order to accommodate the number of parties, counsel, and support staff involved and to facilitate seating and allow for adequate social distancing, access to the Courtroom will be limited to counsel of record and associated support personnel, witnesses identified in the parties' witness lists, and Court personnel.

3. Limited seating for the public and media to observe the trial via a public livestream broadcast will be available in designated space within the PJC (overflow room(s)) on a "first come, first seated" basis, and will comport with relevant social distancing guidelines. The location of the observation room(s) will be posted on the Court's website. Five seats each day will be reserved for properly credentialed members of the media until 10 minutes before the day's proceedings are scheduled to begin. After that time, any remaining reserved seats for properly credentialed members of the media will be released to the public. **The trial may also be viewed via a public livestream web link that will be posted to the Court's website in advance. Broadcasting, televising, recording, and/or**

**photographing of the proceedings, including the public livestream, is prohibited.**

4. Decorum shall be maintained at all times by all persons present in the Courtroom and the overflow room(s).

5. No signs or banners may be brought into PJC. No company or media logos; clothing, buttons, facemasks, or other items with messages; or other material that may be deemed distracting, disruptive, or potentially improperly prejudicial may be brought into, worn, or displayed in the PJC.

6. No electronic devices may be used in the Courtroom except by the Court and by counsel of record. Except for those electronic devices used by the Court and the attorneys, no electronic devices will be allowed in the Courtroom or observation rooms, with the exception of cellular or smart phones. Cellular or smart phones may be carried into the Courtroom and observation rooms, but they must be turned off at all times.

7. The PJC will be open at 8:00 a.m. for counsel of record and other authorized personnel. The Courtroom will be unlocked and available for counsel of record and other authorized personnel approximately 30 minutes before the opening of Court. Counsel of record who require earlier access must make prior arrangements with the Prothonotary. The Capitol Police will begin screening and admitting members of the media and public approximately 30 minutes before the opening of Court.

8. Counsel shall address the Court and examine witnesses from their places at the counsel tables or podium in the Courtroom. Court personnel shall wipe down the witness stand, chair, and microphone with a disinfecting wipe between each witness.

9. All persons participating in or observing the hearing shall adhere to existing PJC and Commonwealth Court COVID-19 protocols, including the Court's COVID-19 Protocols for In-Person, Single Judge Proceedings as posted on the Court's website.

10. No person who demonstrates symptoms of respiratory illness or fever, or is currently diagnosed with COVID-19, or has had close contact within 14 days with a person who is currently diagnosed with COVID-19, may attend the trial as counsel, a party, witness, credentialed member of the media, or public observer. In accordance with CDC guidance, an exception may be made if the individual is asymptomatic, and tested negative for COVID-19 at least five to seven days after their last exposure to someone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.

11. The Court requires that all members of the public, including counsel, wear a facemask in the public areas of the PJC and the Courtrooms regardless of vaccination status. Counsel may remove their facemask when they are at the podium. Witnesses may remove their facemask when testifying. The Judge, who will be physically distanced from others in the Courtroom, may also remove her mask. The Court will make facemasks available at the entrance to the Courtroom.

12. For purposes of COVID-19 contact tracing, all persons entering the Courtroom to participate in or observe the hearing must sign in and provide their name, mobile telephone number and email address, or other valid contact information. Any person who participates in or observes the hearing and subsequently tests positive for COVID-19 within 10 days after the hearing shall notify the Prothonotary at (717) 255-1661.

13. Following the conclusion of the hearing, all participants and observers must exit the Courtroom and the PJC promptly and in a manner that provides for social distancing.

14. Persons who fail to comply with this Order or maintain proper courtroom decorum will be removed by Court personnel or the Capitol Police.

15. AOPC's Director of Communications, Stacey Witalec, is the media liaison. She can be reached at (717) 231-3334 (office) or (717) 877-2997 (cell).