

Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

Media Relations

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# NEWS RELEASE: COVID-19

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**April 21, 2020**

## **PRESIDING JUDGE KEVIN C. BRAZILE LAUDS COUNTY JUSTICE PARTNERS FOR COLLABORATION ON NEW COUNTY-WIDE VIDEO APPEARANCE PROJECT**

The Court is launching a comprehensive Video Appearance Project in 32 courtrooms in 17 courthouses in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and County law enforcement agencies to promote social distancing in the nation's largest trial court.

"I want to express my gratitude and respect to all the dedicated essential Court, law enforcement and justice partner employees who have spent many hours over the past two weeks to organize, test and launch this ambitious, County-wide Video Appearance Project," Presiding Judge Brazile said. "Remote video arraignments are a priority in our Court as we devote our resources to time-sensitive, essential functions during the COVID-19 pandemic."

People facing arraignment on criminal charges in Los Angeles County must consent to the Webex video appearance. The use of 13 Sheriff's Department hubs will significantly reduce the number of Sheriff's Department transports to county courthouses. However, if the arrestees do not consent, the Sheriff's Department transports them to the courthouse for an arraignment with social distancing measures required under Judge Brazile's General Order.

**-MORE-**

## **VIDEO APPEARANCE PROJECT**

### **2-2-2-2**

Persons who consent to a video arraignment will appear from Custody Locations – 13 Sheriff’s Department substations and 19 police departments throughout the County. They will have the opportunity to confer privately with their attorney via remote video connection from a separate room in the Custody Location. They will then sit before a monitor with video connections to the courtroom, where the Judge, Judicial Assistant and Court Reporter will be located and separated by at least 6 feet. Remote connections will be made, if requested, to separate locations for the defense attorney or deputy public defender, an interpreter, if needed, and the prosecuting attorney. Interpreters also will be available for the person’s interview with a defense attorney and/or law enforcement.

Another efficient feature of the Video Appearance Project is a newly launched Custody Paperwork Portal, which allows courtroom clerks to upload release orders and other paperwork to an online web application for law enforcement agencies to access electronic release and/or bail documents. If the Judge orders the release of the arrestee on his or her own recognizance, this new process allows the release to take place directly from the booking station, eliminating unnecessary transports to county courthouses.

Here is a list of the Courthouses and associated Custody Locations:

<b>Courthouse and Department</b>	<b>Law Enforcement Agency Booking Station</b>
Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse; Department S01	LASD Palmdale
Pasadena Courthouse; Department D and Department G	LASD Temple, Pasadena PD, Arcadia PD, and Monrovia PD
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center; Department 30, Department 40, and Department 48	LASD East LA, LAPD Metropolitan Detention Center
Burbank Courthouse; Department 1	Burbank PD
San Fernando Courthouse; Department S and Department E	LASD Santa Clarita
Compton Courthouse; Department D and Department F	LASD Carson, LASD Lakewood, and LASD South LA
El Monte Courthouse; Department 1	LASD Industry, LASD Temple and Baldwin Park PD

**-MORE-**

## VIDEO APPEARANCE PROJECT

### 3-3-3-3

Glendale Courthouse; Department 1	LASD Temple
Pomona Courthouse; Department F, Department M, and Department N	LASD Industry, LASD San Dimas, and Claremont PD
Alhambra Courthouse; Department 1 and Department 2	LASD Temple and Monrovia PD
Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse; Department S01 and Department S02	Long Beach PD
Van Nuys Courthouse; Department 100 and Department 103	LASD Malibu/Lost Hills and LASD West Hollywood
Downey Courthouse; Department 3	LASD Lakewood, LASD Norwalk, and Whittier PD
Downey Courthouse; Department 5	LASD Century, LASD East LA, LASD Norwalk, Bell Gardens PD, and City of Bell PD
Inglewood Courthouse; Department 1 and Department 5	LASD South LA
Torrance Courthouse; Department 3 and Department 4	LASD South LA, LASD Lakewood, Torrance PD, Gardena PD, Redondo Beach PD
Airport Courthouse; Department 30 and Department 31	LASD South LA, LASD West Hollywood, Santa Monica PD and Beverly Hills PD
West Covina Courthouse; Department 4 and Department 5	LASD Industry, LASD San Dimas, Azusa PD, Glendora PD, and Covina PD

The new Video Appearance Project is the most recent addition to the remote appearance options the Court has made available to facilitate access to justice while promoting social distancing. The Court also has launched remote appearance technology in all essential Dependency hearings and in Delinquency hearings, to the extent permitted by law. Pilots are under way in other litigation types, including LPS Conservatorships in the Hollywood Courthouse. Since last year, the Mental Health courts have used video from the California Department of State Hospitals to allow for remote testimony by treating physicians. Remote technology also is used for Competency proceedings.

For the latest updates on Coronavirus/COVID-19-related impacts to Court operations, please consult the Court's COVID-19 News Center located at the top of our homepage ([www.lacourt.org](http://www.lacourt.org)), and follow us on Twitter (@[LASuperiorCourt](https://twitter.com/LASuperiorCourt)).

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# Video Appearance Project

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020  
1:30 p.m.

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County is the largest trial court in the nation and the only state court for the County of Los Angeles, an area which encompasses 88 cities, 140 unincorporated areas and more than 90 law enforcement agencies. It serves a population of more than 10 million people. The Court includes 38 courthouses located in 12 judicial districts throughout the County's 4,752 square miles.



## Expanding Access to Justice and Promoting Social Distancing

The Court launched the new Video Appearance Project in just two weeks after unprecedented collaboration with County justice partners and law enforcement agencies. The project added Felony and Misdemeanor arraignments to the Court's new and existing remote appearance options to facilitate access to justice while promoting social distancing. The Court also has launched remote appearance technology in all essential Dependency hearings, Delinquency hearings to the extent permitted by law, and hearings for Mental Health LPS Conservatorships.

The Video Appearance Project consists of:

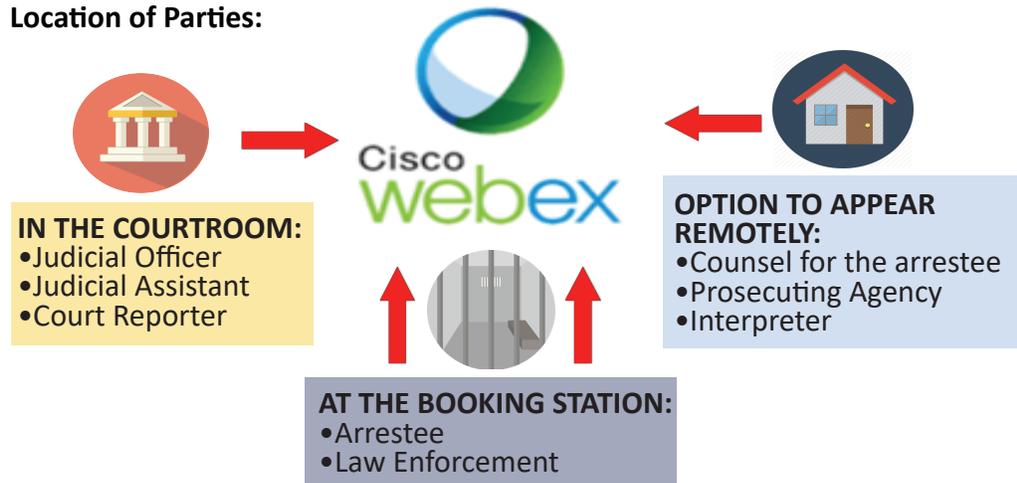
- 32 courtrooms in 17 courthouses in each of the Court's 12 judicial districts.
- 32 Custody Locations: 13 Sheriff's Department substations and 19 Police Departments.
- Additional Police Departments have already reached out to the court to participate and will be added as resources allow.

### How it Works:

The Court uses the Cisco Webex system to conduct video arraignments. All persons being arraigned must agree to appear by video before it takes place. If they do not agree, they are taken to the courthouse for an arraignment with social distancing measures in effect.

Prior to the arraignment, the system allows counsel to remotely consult with their client privately using a separate Webex connection. After necessary interviews are conducted, the Court initiates video arraignment proceedings through the Webex system according to the Court's calendar of arraignments scheduled for that day.

### Location of Parties:



Please note that media are authorized access to courthouses and courtrooms under the Presiding Judge's Emergency General Order. Remote access for the media will be provided at a later date.

For more information on the actions the Court has taken in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, please visit the Court's COVID-19 News and Resources Center at <http://www.lacourt.org/newsmedia/ui/covid19NewsCenter.aspx> and follow us on Twitter (@LASuperiorCourt).