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Maricopa Superior Court Utilizes Technology to Reduce Court Traffic by 40%, Suspends Jury Empanelment through Friday, April 17, 2020 to Curb Risk of COVID-19 Community Exposure

PHOENIX- Earlier this week, Presiding Judge Joseph C. Welty halted all new jury selection through the end of March for the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County. This crucial action reduced the risk of COVID-19 exposure to court employees, contractors and customers; as a result, only one person reported unnecessarily to the Maricopa Superior Court jury assembly room on Monday, March 16, 2020. The utilization of existing technology, combined with the extraordinary efforts of Branch employees, resulted in a 40% reduction of visitors to all Court locations in less than a week. The Maricopa Superior Court is our nation's fourth largest trial court.

Building on this trend, and in compliance with the Arizona Supreme Court's directive under [Administrative Order 2020-48](#), Judge Welty announced that jury selection has been **CANCELED** for all courts located in Maricopa County now through close of business on **Friday, April 17, 2020**. This includes grand juries. Members of the public will continue to receive summonses for jury service because postcards notifying prospective jurors are sent four to six weeks in advance. Persons summonsed for a date later than April 17, 2020 are strongly encouraged to reply as soon as possible so the Court has their current contact information in the event future electronic alerts are sent.

"We have Constitutional and legal obligations to the people of Maricopa County," Judge Welty said. "We all took an oath to fulfill those duties, and we will continue to discharge those duties responsibly and safely according to the best of our abilities. During this uncertain time, the public will continue to have access to critical court services delivered through technological means, including telephonic appearances, e-filing, and text messaging. It is important that we, to the extent possible, do what we can to protect our employees and the public by minimizing the spread of the virus."

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"The Judicial Branch of Arizona is committed
to excellence and the principles inherent in the rule of law
... every person, every day, every time."