



The State Bar Court *of California*

HON. W. KEARSE MCGILL
ACTING PRESIDING JUDGE
HON. CYNTHIA VALENZUELA
SUPERVISING HEARING JUDGE

GENERAL NOTICE RE IN-PERSON AND REMOTE COURT EVENTS

Effective January 1, 2022 and Until Further Notice

Effective January 1, 2022, the State Bar has adopted Interim Rules 5.17 and 5.18 and amended Interim Rule 5.154 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California. These rules apply to all court proceedings in the State Bar Court and permit remote or in-person court appearances in most instances. The Interim Rules are accessible here. The court encourages all court participants to review the Interim Rules in their entirety.

In-Person Court Appearance Requirements:

To continue to protect the health of court users and in compliance with federal, state, and local public health guidelines, and the State Bar's building policies, all persons entering the State Bar Court courtrooms must wear a face covering¹ over both the nose and mouth, regardless of vaccination status. Individuals who decline or refuse to wear a face mask without Building Management exempting them from the mask requirement will be denied entry to the State Bar building and the State Bar Court courtrooms. An individual who removes their face mask will be reminded to wear the mask. If the individual refuses to comply with the face mask requirements, the individual may be denied services, may have their court proceeding rescheduled or converted to a remote proceeding, and/or will be asked to leave the State Bar Court courtrooms and the State Bar building. If the individual refuses to leave, security will be contacted.

Zoom Court Appearance Requirements:

General Requirements:

- Appropriate conduct and attire are expected and required. All remote proceedings that are required to be recorded pursuant to rule 5.14 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar will be recorded.

¹ "Face covering" includes only a surgical mask, medical procedure mask, N95 respirator, or a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least two layers, without holes or openings. A face covering does not include a scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer fabric. If an individual does not have an approved face covering when entering the State Bar building, the individual will be provided with one.

- The recording, broadcasting, or photographing (including “screen-shots” or other visual copying) of a remote court event is strictly prohibited pursuant to rule 5.16 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar, unless granted by the court.
- All participants and other individuals granted remote access to court events are expected to follow all instructions by the court and to not disrupt proceedings in any manner.
- Court events that are conducted wholly or partially as remote proceedings may be accessed by the public through Zoom. Public remote court events are posted to the State Bar Court website in the [Current Notices](#) section by the end of day Friday for the following week. Any changes are posted as soon as possible.

Participant Requirements:

- To participate in a scheduled remote court event, participants will be provided with Zoom access information to access the court event, including information to join by video or telephone. This Zoom access information should not be shared with anyone.
- Participants should access the Zoom court event at least 10 minutes before the scheduled commencement of the court event. Before the court event starts, participants will be placed into "waiting rooms" and will be admitted into the court event by the Court Specialist.
- During the court event, participants should speak one at a time and pause prior to speaking in case there is any audio/video lag. Participants should mute themselves when not speaking in order to avoid any potential background noise.
- If a participant is experiencing technical difficulties, that participant should contact the court via email using the assigned judge’s courtroom email address.

Zoom Video Appearances:

- Zoom video appearances require sufficient internet speed and connectivity to stream video, a device capable of capturing and displaying a clear audio and visual stream, and limited background noise and distraction. It is the sole responsibility of a participant appearing by Zoom to ensure the above criteria are met. The court retains full discretion to terminate a Zoom proceeding, and may continue or reschedule the proceeding for another date and time, or require the participant to appear in person, due to delay or other concern due to disruption, noise, misconduct, a communication problem, a technical problem, other issue, or in the interest of justice.
- If a participant is not connected at the time of the scheduled proceeding, the court may consider it a failure to appear at the proceeding.

Zoom Telephonic Appearances:

- Zoom telephonic appearances require sufficient connectivity, and limited background noise and distraction. It is the sole responsibility of a participant appearing by telephone to ensure the above criteria are met. The court retains full discretion to terminate a telephonic proceeding, and may continue or reschedule the proceeding for another date and time, or require the participant to appear in person, due to delay or other concern due to disruption, noise, misconduct, a communication problem, a technical problem, other issue, or in the interest of justice.
- If a participant is not connected at the time of the scheduled proceeding, the court may consider it a failure to appear at the proceeding.