

**United States Court of Appeals  
for the Armed Forces  
Washington, D.C.**

**In Re:**

**2021 TERM OF COURT  
HEARING PROCEDURES**

**NOTICE AND ORDER**

By order of the Chief Judge, the following information and procedures pertain to court hearings during the 2021 term of court in view of the continuing public health concerns resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic:

(1) The Court will conduct in-person hearings for the 2021 term. On oral argument days, the first hearing will be held at 0930 and the second at 1045. This timing will permit the courtroom to be sanitized between arguments and will allow persons departing after the first hearing to minimize their contact with persons arriving for the second hearing.

(2) Masks will be required to enter the courthouse and must be worn at all times.

(3) All civilian visitors must fill out and sign a Certification of Vaccination that is available at the security desk or online on the Court's website. If a visitor declines to respond or is not fully vaccinated, that visitor must comply with the following safety protocols while inside the Courthouse: (a) wear a mask regardless of the level of community transmission, (b) physically distance, and (c) provide proof of having received a negative COVID-19 test from within the previous 3 days.

(4) The courtroom will be configured in order to maintain social distancing.

(a) To eliminate use of the standard central podium, each counsel table will have a lectern on it with a microphone. In the

interest of clarity of communication and the proper recording of the hearing, first chair advocates will be permitted to unmask when they are called to present argument. Also, additional time may be granted to permit first and second chair counsel to consult with one another prior to the conclusion of argument. It is the Court's expectation that counsel will exchange notes rather than communicate orally in close proximity to one another.

(b) The gallery of the courtroom will be marked to identify individual seated positions where masked attendees may observe the hearings.

(5) The courthouse has been upgraded with numerous contact-free amenities in the public restroom areas to enable proper hygiene with minimal contact.

(6) Individuals who do not have a professional need to be present are requested to seriously consider whether the public interest would be better served by staying away from the hearings.

(7) Absent any unforeseen technical difficulty, the audio recordings of the hearings will be posted to the Court's website the same day.

(8) The Court will not conduct Project Outreach hearings this fall. The feasibility of resuming Project Outreach in the spring of 2022 will be addressed at a future date.

For the Court,

/s/ David A. Anderson  
Clerk of the Court

September 27, 2021