

**IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU**

IN RE: AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL
ORDER NO. 8

**SPECIAL ORDER NO. 8 ON
REMOTE COURT PROCEEDINGS**

Pursuant to Article X, Section 14 of the Constitution of the Republic of Palau; in response to the global COVID-19 crisis and travel restrictions imposed by the Republic; to facilitate the use of remote court proceedings as necessitated by the needs of the parties or the Judiciary; and in an effort to provide continuous access to justice, the Supreme Court hereby implements the following. **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

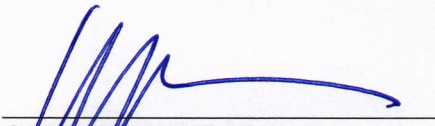
1. All courtrooms will have the capability to conduct remote court proceedings (“RCP”) where a judge, counsel, and/or witness(es) will be able to appear remotely, whether in part or in whole, using a reliable video or telephone conference application.
2. All rules of procedure and administrative orders applicable to court proceedings that limit or prohibit the use of court-approved communication equipment for the remote conduct of proceedings shall be suspended.
3. Virtual appearance may be used in any proceeding, whether appellate or trial, in both civil and criminal cases, as determined by each presiding justice or judge, and upon consideration of the constitutional rights of defendants and victims and the public’s right of access to the courts, subject to the following limitation: Absent a showing of extraordinary circumstances including, but not limited to, the lack of available funds preventing the presiding justice or judge from being physically present, a presiding justice or judge shall conduct all trials and evidentiary hearings in-person, but may virtually attend other proceedings. This restriction shall not apply to attorneys, parties, or witnesses, who may virtually attend any proceedings.

4. Witnesses, parties, or counsels appearing remotely during an RCP shall be deemed to be “present” in court.

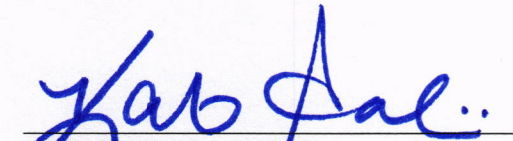
5. The court may make any proceeding accessible to the public in real time during an RCP, which shall be deemed to be held “in public” and “in open court.”

This Order takes immediate effect and supersedes the existing Special Order No. 8, dated January 6, 2021, and Part II of the Rules Implementing Amendments to 4 PNC § 201, dated May 14, 2021.

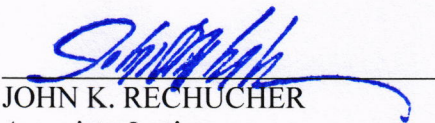
SO ORDERED this 12th day of June, 2024.



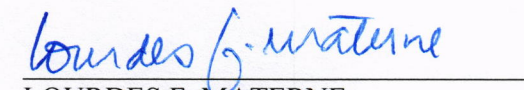
OLDIAIS NGIRAIKELAU
Chief Justice



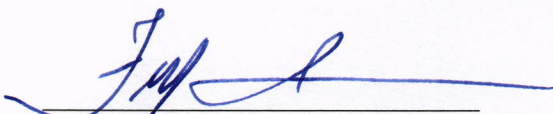
KATHLEEN M. SALII
Presiding Justice of the Trial Division



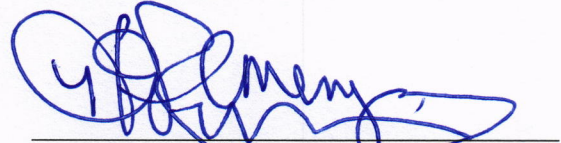
JOHN K. REUCHER
Associate Justice



LOURDES F. MATERNE
Associate Justice



FRED M. ISAACS
Associate Justice



HONORA E. REMENGESAU RUDIMCH
Associate Justice