

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

IN RE: REMOTE COURT PROCEEDINGS

**SPECIAL ORDER NO. 8**

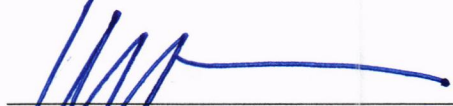
Pursuant to Article X, Section 14, of the Constitution of the Republic of Palau; in response to the global COVID-19 crisis and travel restrictions imposed by the Republic; to facilitate the use of remote court proceedings as necessitated by the needs of the parties or the Judiciary; and in an effort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

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

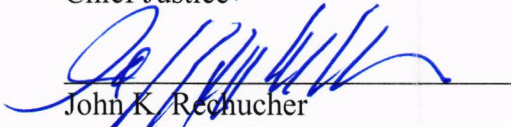
1. All courtrooms will have the capability to conduct remote court proceedings (“RCP”) where a judge, counsel, a party, and/or witness(es) will be able to appear remotely, whether in part or in whole, using a reliable video or telephone conference application.
2. All rules of procedure and administrative 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 judge, and upon consideration of the constitutional rights of defendants and victims and the public’s right of access to the courts.
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.”

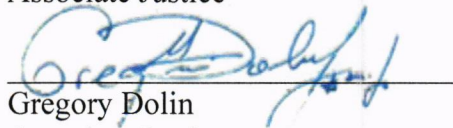
Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.



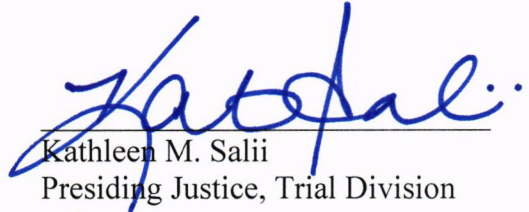
Oichais Ngiraikelau  
Chief Justice



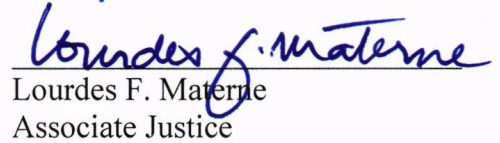
John K. Rechucher  
Associate Justice



Gregory Dolin  
Associate Justice



Kathleen M. Salii  
Presiding Justice, Trial Division



Lourdes F. Materne  
Associate Justice