

NOTICE TO THE BAR

The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York plans to proceed to Phase III of our Phased Re-Entry Plan (COVID-19), on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.

During Phase III, jury trials will resume. Because safe practices limit the number of jurors who can report to the courthouse at any given time, the judges of the court, working with the Clerk of Court, have prioritized the order of trials using agreed-upon criteria to select cases from among those for which trial dates were requested. All judicial requests for criminal trial dates have been honored; a number of civil cases have been identified as possible “back up” cases in case trial slots become available due to pleas or settlements. The presiding judge’s chambers will notify counsel if a case on which they are working has been assigned a trial date.

During Phase III, a number of new protocols will be followed in order to keep our jurors and litigants safe. You can read about those protocols in the SDNY Phased Re-Entry Plan (COVID-19), which is located on our web site at www.nysd.uscourts.gov/covid-19-coronavirus. A summary of our protocols can be found on the web site’s Rules page. We expect counsel to familiarize themselves with these new protocols and to help us make trials work by following them at all times. Our plan for the restoration of services to the public will only work if Bench and Bar operate together as partners. We also remind all counsel and their clients and witnesses to be mindful of our building entry protocols, our quarantine requirements, and our mask and social distancing policies, all of which can be found in the public plan for the restoration of services on the web site.

B-Rads Bistro, the cafeteria on the eighth floor of the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Courthouse, will reopen with limited service during Phase III. Check the web page for further details, including information about when the dine-in eating area might reopen.

The court is continuously monitoring pandemic-related developments and reserves the right to change protocols or expand or cut back on operations as our experts advise and public safety requirements dictate. Counsel and all members of the public should visit www.nysd.uscourts.gov/covid-19-coronavirus on a regular basis to receive the latest updates.

Colleen McMahon
Chief Judge