



COVID-19 COURT UPDATE (Update and Correction)

By Darryl J. Horowitz

We recently wrote to provide a status of steps taken by our courts. The article included the following summary as part of the discussion:

In addition, the Chief Justice issued an order that extends the time for any action in court by 30 days without need for any court order. Thus, if a response to a complaint is due now, the time to file a response is extended 30 days. The same is true with discovery responses and motions to compel. A copy of the order can be viewed here: https://newsroom.courts.ca.gov/internal_redirect/cms.ipressroom.com.s3.amazonaws.com/262/files/20202/Supreme%20Court%20Order%203.20.20.pdf

This order was limited to actions before the Supreme Court. Thus, the reference to other matters in the remainder of the action was incorrect. It will refer to matters before the Supreme Court at the present time. The remainder of the article was correct. Thank you to those who pointed out the discrepancy.

Since the article was written, the Judicial Council, which guides our courts in California, has approved additional measures including further extending the time within which to bring an action to trial (by more than 30 days) and increased use of technology, including video and audio appearances and expanding electronic filings. (<https://www.lacba.org/docs/default-source/news/statewide-order-by-the-chief-justice-chair-of-the-judicial-council-3-30-2020.pdf>)

This follows Governor Newsom's executive order granting the Judicial Council emergency authority, and which expanded the use of deposition by telephone and service of documents via e-mail. (<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.27.20-N-38-20.pdf>.)

With the Federal shelter in place guidelines extended though the end of April, we expect that parties will come to realize that video meetings are preferable to no meetings or meetings by phone and video depositions are preferable to no depositions until in-person depositions are permitted. With Zoom, Skype, WebEx and other conferencing platforms, video meetings and depositions are better than most participants may think.

As the courts issue more directives that affect you and your business, we will provide updates. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact the author at (559) 248-4820, ext. 111 or dhorowitz@ch-law.com.

This article was written by [Darryl J. Horowitz](#). Darryl is the managing partner at Coleman & Horowitz, LLP, where he works in the firm's litigation department and represents clients in complex business, construction, banking and real estate litigation, consumer finance litigation, commercial collections, casualty insurance defense, insurance coverage, and alternative dispute

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