UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

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IN RE:
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19

GENERAL ORDER

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a national emergency, and the Governor of the State of Connecticut has declared a public health emergency throughout the State;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has advised people to take precautions in light of the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus) outbreak, including social distancing and the wearing of masks and other cloth face coverings in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain; AND

WHEREAS, the Court continues to review its operations to identify measures that will help slow the spread of the virus by minimizing contact between persons, while at the same time preserving its core mission of serving the public through the fair and impartial administration of justice;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, **effective immediately and until further order,** that: All persons entering a federal courthouse in this District (including the Bankruptcy Court facility at 157 Church Street, New Haven) shall wear a mask that is effective to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus (e.g., N95, medical, or cloth mask that covers both nose and mouth). Masks shall be worn at all times while in public spaces, including but not limited to courtrooms, hallways, bathrooms, Clerk's Office public counter/intake area, Probation Office reception, elevators, and stairwells. Witnesses testifying during in-court proceedings may be allowed to remove their masks during testimony, if permitted by the presiding judge; witnesses testifying during grand jury proceedings may be allowed to remove their masks during testimony, if permitted by an Assistant U.S. Attorney or the Foreperson. Court employees are encouraged to wear masks even when in non-public spaces. Employees of courthouse tenant agencies are encouraged to wear masks even when in non-public spaces.

SO ORDERED:

Dated: 5/19/2020
Bridgeport, CT

/s/ Stefan R. Underhill
Stefan R. Underhill
Chief United States District Judge