

News Release



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New Jersey Judiciary's First Socially Distanced Trials to Begin

Testimony in New Jersey's first socially distanced criminal trials is set to begin this week following today's completion of a hybrid process of virtual and in-person jury selection in two vicinages.

A jury of 16 men and women was selected this morning from a pool of 42 potential jurors who were summoned to the Bergen County Courthouse in Hackensack. They were qualified preliminarily during nearly four days of remote voir dire questioning last week.

In the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage, a jury of 14 men and women was selected this morning from a pool of 44 potential jurors who reported to the Atlantic County Criminal Courthouse in Mays Landing. They were qualified after remote voir dire questioning on Monday, Sept. 28.

Jury trials were suspended for more than six months because of Covid-19, until a Supreme Court order directed the use of a hybrid approach to safeguard both the health of jurors and court participants as well as the rights of more than 9,000 defendants awaiting trial.

Testimony in the Atlantic County trial is scheduled to begin Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 9 a.m. In the Bergen County case, testimony is set to begin 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 1.

Both trials can be viewed live at njcourts.gov.

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