

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY

CR2025-007905-001 DT

02/25/2026

HONORABLE JEFFREY A. RUETER

CLERK OF THE COURT
D. McHardy
Deputy

STATE OF ARIZONA

EDWARD DOUGLAS LEITER

v.

LAURA MICHELLE OWENS (001)

JEFFREY A SWIERSKI

JUDGE RUETER

COMPREHENSIVE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE/TRIAL ORDERS

8:57 a.m.

Courtroom SCT 8A

State's Attorney: Greg Bizzozero
Defendant's Attorney: Jeffrey Swierski
Defendant: Present

A record of the proceedings is made digitally in lieu of a court reporter.

This is the time set for Comprehensive Pretrial Conference and Complex Case Management Conference.

The parties have filed a Comprehensive Pretrial Conference Statement.

Discussion is held regarding the status of the case.

The Court has received and reviewed the State's Motion for a Protective Order, filed 02/06/2026.

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IT IS ORDERED directing the Defense to file a Response to the State's Motion for Protective Order by no later than end of business on 03/06/2026.

IT IS ORDERED setting next Complex Case Management Conference on 04/09/2026 at 8:45 a.m. before this Division.

IT IS ORDERED affirming the Final Trial Management Conference (FTMC) on 07/22/2026 at 8:45 a.m. before this Division.

IT IS ORDERED affirming the Trial Assignment Date of 07/29/2026 at 9:00 a.m. before the Master Calendar Assignment Judge. The Trial Assignment hearing is in person for all lawyers and defendants. The parties should contact the Trial Assignment division prior to the Trial Assignment date to request to appear virtually. The purpose of the hearing is to set dates for (1) the Trial Procedure Conference and (2) the jury selection date.

All self-represented litigants shall appear in person at the trial assignment date unless otherwise ordered. All in custody defendants shall be transported unless otherwise ordered.

Should the Trial Assignment Judge approve a virtual appearance, the Assignment Judge's division will email parties instructions and a link to join the Court Connect videoconference (for more information, visit <https://superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/court-connect/>). A hearing participant can also join by telephone by dialing 917-781-4590 and entering Access Code 103 815 458#. If a virtual appearance has been approved counsel of record and defendants are ordered to appear via videoconference with their webcams enabled.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Joint Pretrial Statement (JPTS) is due in the case management division by 5:00 p.m., five (5) judicial days before the FTMC.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED with the JPTS, Counsel shall deliver to the case management division, copies of the following:

A. A jointly completed time and witness estimate list. The Court will use the list to predict the length of the trial for the jurors and to direct Counsel to follow the trial time limits established. Any time limitation set will be reasonable presumptive limits subject to modification upon a showing of good cause.

B. A joint set of agreed upon preliminary and final jury instructions, including Preliminary Criminal RAJI or standard RAJI.

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C. Separate sets of requested instructions that have not been agreed upon. Please read *Rosen v. Knaub*, 175 Ariz. 329, 857 P.2d 381 (1993).

D. Proposed Voir Dire questions which the Court will give. In jury trial cases the parties shall jointly prepare a brief summary of the case which the Court will read to the jury at the commencement of voir dire.

E. Any juror notebooks. The Court encourages use of juror notebooks in appropriate cases. Stipulating the contents into evidence is necessary. Key exhibits may be included, along with diagrams, photographs, and timelines.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any disclosure and/or discovery shall be completed no later than seven (7) days prior to trial. Any party seeking further disclosure and/or discovery after the discovery deadline shall seek leave of the Court by motion supported by affidavit to extend the time for disclosure and/or discovery. Parties may extend the deadline by written stipulation which waives any objections to the late disclosure and/or discovery.

MOTIONS IN LIMINE

Any motions in limine shall be filed twenty (20) days before the FTMC and such motions must meet the test of *State v. Superior Court*, 108 Ariz. 396, 397, 499 P.2d 152 (1972): "The primary purpose of a motion in limine is to avoid disclosing to the jury prejudicial matters which may compel a mistrial." See also, Ariz. Rules of Evidence, Rule 103(c). A written response to a motion in limine may be filed no later than ten (10) days thereafter. The Court will rule on the motions in limine without oral argument. If the Court wishes to hear argument, the argument will be heard at the morning of the FTMC.

PRETRIAL MOTIONS

All pretrial motions must be filed in writing thirty (30) days before the FTMC. All motions must comply with Rule 35.1 including setting forth a sufficient factual basis for the motion. Failure to file a sufficient motion may result in the motion being denied without evidentiary hearing. See: Rule 16.1[c] Rule 16.2 [b]; *State v. Anaya* 170 Ariz. 436, 443 (1991); *State v. Wilson* 164 Ariz. 406, 407 (1990) and *State v. Alvarado* 121 Ariz. 485, 487 (1979).

All pretrial motions shall be filed with this division.

MARKING EXHIBITS

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On the day of trial, immediately after receiving notification of the assigned trial judge, the trial lawyers or their knowledgeable assistants shall appear in the assigned trial division to present all exhibits. The exhibits shall be marked serially as they are listed in the LIST OF EXHIBITS which will be prepared by counsel and downloaded onto a disk which should be given to the clerk.

The parties shall advise the division, referring specifically to the pretrial statement, which exhibits may be marked directly in evidence. All exhibits shall be clearly marked to correspond with the list provided. Counsel is directed to meet in person to exchange the exhibits before coming to court. Counsel will make sure that they do not bring to the clerk a set of exhibits that include duplicate exhibits. Written stipulations to admit specified exhibits in evidence are encouraged.

The Court assigned for trial will hear and rule upon objections at the time of trial. The rulings will be stated on the record, using exhibit numbers. All objections to known exhibits and witnesses must be made before or during the conference with the trial judge or will be deemed to have been waived.

The Court will hear and rule upon objections at the FTMC. The rulings will be stated on the record, using exhibit numbers. All objections to known exhibits and witnesses must be made before or during the FTMC or will be deemed to have been waived.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that counsel, at the FTMC, shall be prepared to discuss:

- A. Time limits in voir dire, opening statements, examination of witnesses and closing arguments.
- B. Stipulations for the foundation and authenticity of exhibits.
- C. Jury instructions (preliminary and final), juror notebooks (Counsel shall bring any proposed jury notebooks to the conference), mini-opening statements and voir dire.
- D. Any special scheduling or equipment issues.
- E. Status of settlement of the case.

EXPEDITED DISCOVERY

If there are any issues as to the disclosure required under Rule 15, the parties shall attempt to resolve the issue under Rule 15.7 (b). After personal consultation, the party seeking

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relief shall file a written motion setting forth the issue and requested relief. This motion, the opposing parties' response, and any reply shall be filed with this division.

All parties shall comply with Rule 15 disclosure orders. Failure to comply could result in sanctions which could include preclusion of witnesses, monetary fines, or any other sanction which is deemed appropriate.

FAILURE TO APPEAR

A defendant's failure to appear at any final trial management conference, trial, evidentiary hearing, or any hearing set before the court may result in a bench warrant being issued for his or her arrest and the FTMC, trial, evidentiary hearing or any hearing set before the court may be conducted in the defendant's absence.

CONTINUANCE OF TRIAL

The trial date shall not be continued unless a written motion to continue is filed at least five days before trial. A continuance will not be granted unless the motion shows that extraordinary circumstances exist. (Rule 8.5, Rules of Criminal Procedure and guidelines thereto).

INTERPRETER

It is the responsibility of counsel to notify the court before which a hearing will be held 48 hours in advance of any hearing needing an interpreter for a victim or witness (10 business days for any language other than Spanish).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED affirming prior release orders.

LAST DAY: 08/29/2026.

Defendant is directed to appear at all scheduled court hearings and advised of the potential consequences should he/she fail to appear.

9:01 a.m. Matter concludes.