



# CPDA

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*A Statewide Association of Public Defenders and Criminal Defense Counsel*

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March 16, 2020

Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye  
The Supreme Court of California  
350 McAlister Street  
Room 1295  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4797

Dear Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye:

As you are aware the California Public Defender's Association (CPDA) is a statewide organization of public defenders, private defense counsel and investigators that has approximately 4,000 members. CPDA stands in alliance with public defenders throughout the state in promoting the rights of indigent clients accused of crimes. CPDA is also committed racial justice and to treating all those accused of criminal behavior with dignity and respect.

On behalf of our membership and in light of COVID-19 that is impacting all of our lives we ask you to make the following immediate orders to all judicial officers throughout the state:

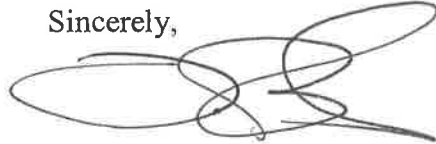
- Order all judicial officers to allow out of custody defendants in both felony and misdemeanor cases and out of custody juveniles who have been charged by petition to appear through counsel, unless strictly necessary for a hearing or trial.
- Order all judicial officers to stay the issuance of any bench warrants at least 6 weeks to allow counsel to attempt to bring the defendant to court and avoid unnecessary jail admissions.
- Order the continuance of all time waived out of custody criminal and juvenile cases at least 90 days.
- Order all judicial officers to continue all out of custody adult and juvenile defendant arraignments on misdemeanors and felony cases that are not violent (1192.7) and not serious (667(a)) for at least 90 days.
- Order all judicial officers to stay of the imposition of any pending out of custody jail sentences or sentences in juvenile matters at least 90 days.
- Order all judicial officers to order the immediate release from custody all incarcerated juveniles in juvenile halls, and adult defendants in county jails who are being held on any non 667(a) violent felony and all who are at higher risk due to age or significant health conditions.
- Order all judicial officers to grant the immediate release of all sentenced juveniles adult prisoners and defendants with less than six months remaining on their sentences.
- Order all judicial officers to grant the immediate release of all sentenced defendants and those pending trial who were, or are, charged with misdemeanors or who are pending prelim and trial charged with 1170(h) felonies (excluding high risk domestic violence defendants).

To protect the health of and safety of those in the criminal justice system we are asking for these compassionate and reasonable measures to avoid catastrophic health conditions for those who are incarcerated in our state.

Thank you.

I wish you, and all those close to you good health

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Oscar Bobrow  
President California Public Defenders Association