



**Yakima County District Court**  
128 North Second Street, Room 225  
Yakima, WA 98901  
Phone: (509) 574-1804  
Fax: (509) 574-1801

**Judges**

Kevin M. Roy  
Donald W. Engel  
Brian K. Sanderson  
Alfred G. Schweppe

**Court Commissioner**  
Kevin Eilmes

Date: August 4, 2021

From: Therese Murphy, District Court Administrator

To: Yakima County Bar Association

Re: Yakima County District Court Calendar Modifications and Zoom Hearings

We are making some modifications to our court calendaring structure. The District Court staff will be working to phase in these changes. These changes will not impact cases that are already set. The changes are as follows:

**Criminal Dockets:**

9:00 and 10:00 15 per hour session  
11:00 motions only  
1:30 and 2:30 15 per hour session  
3:00 motions only

**Infraction Dockets:**

9:00 and 10:00 (no 11:00 settings) 25 per session  
Afternoon Dockets no staggering all cases set at 1:30 25 per session

**Warrant Recall Docket:**

9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30 10 cases per half hour

**Civil Dockets:**

Tuesdays:

1:30 PM supplemental proceedings with a limit of 15  
1:30 PM civil motions, confirmation, and pre-trial hearings with a limit of 15  
1:45 PM pro se bench trial, 4 max

Wednesdays:

9:00 AM civil motions, confirmation hearings for all other counsel, including non-collection cases, limited to 15  
9:00 AM two-attorney bench trial (one per setting)  
1:30 PM subpoena motions  
1:45 PM second two-attorney bench trial setting, or continuation of trial from the morning  
1:45 PM vehicle impound

**Jury Trials:**

We are making every effort to start having two jury trials per week on Wednesdays. We will resume the ability to have two jury trials a week starting September 1.

The Court will continue to allow for virtual appearances via Zoom with some limitations and requirements as defined below:

Criminal Dockets:

- **Disposition Hearings:** for any hearing for which it anticipated a disposition will be conducted (i.e. plea and sentence, entry of SOC, deferred prosecution etc.), it is expected that the defendant will be physically present in the courtroom, UNLESS, permission is obtained by the Judge for a virtual appearance AND all the disposition paperwork is signed and filed with the court **in advance** of the hearing.
- **Out of Custody Prelims:** Defendant to be physically present in the courtroom for all out of custody prelims, UNLESS permission is obtained from the Judge **in advance** of the hearing for a virtual appearance.
- **Waiver of Speedy Trial:** For those cases where it is anticipated that the defendant will be waiving speedy trial, it is expected that the defendant will appear in person in Court UNLESS **in advance** of the hearing a signed waiver of speedy trial is filed with the court.

Civil Dockets:

- Anti-Harassment Hearings: Parties are required to be present in court, UNLESS permission is granted by the Judge to appear virtually.
- Name Changes: Parties are required to be present in court, UNLESS permission is granted by the Judge to appear virtually.

For all virtual appearances via Zoom, the participants are required to have a camera and audio. For the court hearing, it is expected that the camera will be on so that the Judge is able to see the defendant/litigant. The Court will be relying on the attorney's representing the defendant/litigant to communicate this requirement and ensure that they have the ability to appear virtually in accordance with the Court's expectations.

If you and your client wish to appear virtually and it is a hearing for which permission must be obtained in advance, attached to this memo is a motion that you should complete and submit with the signed documents. You can submit the motion and the signed documents to the calendaring desk. For a Yakima case you would send the documents to: [DCCalendaringDesk@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:DCCalendaringDesk@co.yakima.wa.us). For a case in Grandview you would send the documents to: [GRVW.Clerks@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:GRVW.Clerks@co.yakima.wa.us). I want to emphasize the sooner you submit the motion and documents the easier it will be for my staff to process. Waiting until the last minute may cause the case to not be calendared at the requested date/time.

Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.