

# THE BRIEF

MARCH 2022

An electronic update for the legal community providing a brief look at news in Eau Claire County Courts

## **COVID-19 and the Eau Claire County Circuit Courts Status Update**

Masks are no longer required in the Eau Claire County Government Center as of March 1, 2022. This includes the second floor and courtrooms. The courts will continue to require masks for jury trials until further notice. Attorneys, witnesses, and the Court may remove masks when speaking. Social distancing is still encouraged. Anyone choosing to wear a mask may do so. The recommendations of health officials will continue to be considered, and things may change.

Criminal hearings will be in person unless there is prior court approval for a Zoom hearing. Zoom will likely be permitted if there is illness, the hearing is not evidentiary, is not complicated, involves travel from out of the county, or the defendant is in custody. The defendant must waive the right to a personal appearance. Zoom will **not** be permitted because the defendant prefers to be elsewhere.

Various family and civil hearings continue to be held by Zoom as set by **the Court**.

### **Courtroom Relocation**

Judge Sarah Harless has now officially relocated to the courtroom vacated by Judge Jon Theisen. Her former courtroom will be by the used Branch 6 Judge when they take the bench in August.

### **New Staff**

Jennifer Weber, who previously worked in the Fiscal division of the Clerk of Court Office, has been hired by the Courts to fill the new Judicial Assistant position.

Attorney Lorelee Clark has rejoined the District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney and Regional VAWA Resource Prosecutor.

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The Brief. Published monthly. To submit topics or questions: [EauClaire.Info@wicourts.gov](mailto:EauClaire.Info@wicourts.gov)