

17<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
201 S.E. 6TH STREET, SUITE 20170  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301



TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE  
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**For Immediate Release**

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## **BROWARD HOLDS FIRST JURY TRIALS SINCE COVID-RELATED CLOSURES**

**Fort Lauderdale, FL** – After more than a year since in-person operations were mostly suspended due to Covid-19, the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit cautiously and successfully held its first jury trials this week.

While adhering to all CDC guidelines, Judge Robert Diaz and Judge Kim Mollica each completed a county criminal jury trial, and Judge Giuseppina Miranda completed a county civil jury trial. Jurors were socially distanced and masked, along with the witnesses, court personnel, and BSO deputies and bailiffs.

The trial judges commended the jurors who answered their call of duty, especially doing so amid the pandemic. Judge Diaz said, "The best part was the enthusiasm of my entire jury panel. They were willing to do their civic duty, while heeding all safety measures, which were used." Judge Mollica agreed and said, "The trial went smoothly. The jurors were happy to serve!"

It was a true team effort to get to this stage of operations including the leadership of Chief Judge Jack Tuter, Judge Robert Lee, and Judge Kenneth Gottlieb, as well as the Trial Court Administrator and her IT and Video Operations team. In fact, all of the county judges in some way or another contributed to the successful resumption of jury trials. Jurors will continue to be summoned for county and circuit criminal trials in the upcoming weeks as the Circuit steps up its re-opening process.

Continue to check <http://www.17th.flcourts.org/> for updates.

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