



**SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
SOUTHWEST REGION**

**NOTICE
LONG TRIAL SCHEDULING
April 26, 2023**

The Southwest Region is embarking on a new method of scheduling civil trials (jury and non-jury) that are estimated to require trial time in excess of 3 weeks (15 days). Such matters will be referred to as “long trials”.

From this date onward, long trials scheduled to commence in 2025 or a later year will be assigned to a dedicated long trial sittings running list. Commencing in 2025, there will be a 5-week long trial sitting each spring and fall where a dedicated team of judges will be assigned to conduct long trials. In 2025, the sittings will commence on March 31, 2025 and September 29, 2025, and the practice will carry on in subsequent years in the spring and fall. All long trials in every centre will be scheduled into these sittings. We will cease the practice of fixing trial dates. Trials estimated in excess of 5 weeks (25 days) will be placed on the long trial running lists and will be subject to extensive trial management.

In non-UFC centres (all but London and St. Thomas), consideration will be given to scheduling family trials estimated to require trial time in excess of 3 weeks (15 days) into these new sittings depending on a judicial assessment of the level of urgency.

Pre-trial conferences of matters placed on a long trials running list will be held prior to the assigned sitting and to the extent possible, will be scheduled consistent with Rule 50.02(2.1). In addition, in some centres, an early pre-trial may be scheduled to confirm the matter will be trial ready if not resolved.

During these scheduled long trial sittings, the only other work that will be heard in the Region will be criminal matters done by necessity, rota work, and the work of the U.F.C.

While new to the Southwest Region, this scheduling practice has proven to be successful in other Regions. Hopefully we will see the same positive results those Regions have experienced, but in any event, we must find a better way to schedule long trials.

Civil jury and non-jury trials estimated to require trial time of 3 weeks (15 days) or less, will continue to be scheduled in each centre as before.

Dated: April 26, 2023.

Bruce G. Thomas
Regional Senior Justice
Superior Court (Southwest Region)