

Across Latin America we are experiencing court closures and delays which currently are expected to continue through April. In some jurisdictions this means that courts will be at a standstill during this period and we are told by our local network of correspondents that the periods could be extended further, adding even greater delay to cases currently in litigation. We are monitoring these court schedules closely.

COUNTRY	RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED OF THE COURTS OPERATION
Argentina	Decision No. 8/2020: Extraordinary court recess has been extended through 24 May 2020.
Belize	The Supreme Court suspended all hearings and trials until 30 April 2020 . Currently not all judges are hearing matters, as it depends on the particular judge discretion.
Brazil	Resolution No. 313: Courts deadlines will resume on 4 May 2020 , in case of the proceedings processed electronically; and on 15 May 2020 , where files are processed physically. Court hearings remain suspended .
Chile	Courts remain open , however, no hearings are held. Involved parties are still expected to meet deadlines. Deadlines to be met under the discretion of each court. These temporary regulations are subject to a law that is expected to be issued within 1-2 weeks, as the situation evolves.
Colombia	Courts will be closed up to 11 May 2020 .
Costa Rica	Courts resumed functioning in a limited way : documents are being processed, however, hearings are still suspended .
Dominican Republic	On 19 March 2020, a state of emergency was declared. It will last for 25 days, and may be extended for an additional 25 days. Courts will be reopened three days after the lifting of the state of emergency .
Ecuador	Judicial operations were suspended since 16 March 2020 , and will remain closed until further notice.
El Salvador	Courts are completely closed until 30 April 2020 .
Guatemala	Courts are operating in a limited manner . This is likely to be extended depending on how the pandemic evolves.
Honduras	Courts are operating in a limited manner .
Mexico	By Presidential Decree all federal public service jobs (other than essential jobs) are to remain closed at least until 31 May 2020 .
Nicaragua	Courts are operating normally .
Panama	The Supreme Court of Justice ordered the closure of the Judicial Branch until 17 May 2020 .
Paraguay	Court activity has been partially resumed , as the courts of appeals and the supreme court resumed activity. On 18 May 2020 , deadlines for trials before all first instance courts will resume . On 1 June 2020 , all administrative deadlines will resume .
Peru	Suspension of court activities until 26 April 2020 .
Puerto Rico	Courts are closed until 3 May 2020 , court deadlines were extended until 18 May 2020 .
Uruguay	On 11 May 2020 , the Judicial Branch will resume its activity.

Venezuela	Courts are closed until 13 May 2020 .
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