FILED IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

NOV 9 - 1981

BRUCE RIFKIN, Clerk
By _____ Deputy

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

In the matter of DIVISION OF COURT BUSINESS	GENERAL ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 28, United States Code, Section 137, it is hereby agreed and ordered by the undersigned active Judges of this Court that the division of this Court's business among said Judges shall be as hereinafter stated:

1. As used herein:

A. Civil cases include bankruptcy appeals and ~~[Chapter-X,-XI-and-XII-bankruptcy-proceedings,-if-any,]~~ habeas corpus petitions ~~[including-McNeil-Island-Cases]~~ but excludes Section 2255 motions and other similar cases described in paragraph 8.

B. Criminal cases include appeals from magistrates and all proceedings under Rules 7, 20 and 40, FRCrP.

2. All civil cases filed in this district shall be assigned as follows:

-- All civil cases filed at Tacoma to Judge Jack E. Tanner.

-- All admiralty and non-jury maritime cases filed at Seattle to Senior Judge William T. Beeks.

-- All other civil cases filed at Seattle equally to Judges Walter T. McGovern, Donald S. Voorhees, Barbara J. Rothstein and John C. Coughenour.

3. All criminal cases filed in this district shall be assigned as follows:

-- All criminal cases at Tacoma to Judge Jack E. Tanner.

-- All criminal cases at Seattle equally to Judges Walter T. McGovern, Donald S. Voorhees, Barbara J. Rothstein and John C. Coughenour.

4. All naturalization proceedings at Tacoma, including contested petitions, [~~and all McNeil Island cases, if any,~~] shall be handled by Judge Jack E. Tanner.

5. Senior Judge William J. Lindberg shall be responsible for the call and discharge of grand juries, the return of indictments, and all other matters related to the functions of the grand juries which are not otherwise specifically assigned to Judge John C. Coughenour.

6. Judge Barbara J. Rothstein shall be responsible for the call and qualification of petit jurors.

7. Judge John C. Coughenour shall be responsible for all naturalization proceedings at Seattle, including contested petitions.

8. Judge Donald S. Voorhees shall be responsible for all claims for wages and effects of deceased and deserting seamen; and unassigned ex parte matters.

9. Individual petitions for admission to the bar of this Court may be heard by any Judge <u>or Magistrate</u> of this Court. Group admissions pursuant to local rule shall be held at times fixed by the Clerk.

10. Proceedings under Section 2255, Title 28, United States Code, shall be assigned to and handled by the Judge who imposed the sentence involved.

11. If immediate action is necessary in any case or proceeding assigned to a particular Judge and that Judge is unavailable for any reason, any other Judge may hear and dispose of the matter requiring immediate attention, but such action shall not constitute reassignment of the case or proceeding.

12. A. When civil or criminal actions involving a common question of law and fact (but not necessarily the same parties) are assigned to different Judges and it appears to any Judge of this Court that there may be good reason to assign all of said actions to one Judge, such may be assigned to the Judge to whom the case bearing the earliest filing date was assigned, at his option.

B. Motions to consolidate civil or criminal actions for trial, or otherwise, shall be heard by the Judge to whom the case bearing the earliest filing date has been assigned, and in the event consolidation is ordered, the consolidated cases shall be heard by said Judge.

13. The reassignment of a case necessitated by the disqualification of a Judge shall be to the Judge to whom the next case filed would have been assigned; that Judge shall then reassign one of his generally equally weighted cases to the disqualified Judge.

14. The assignment of all civil and criminal cases as above noted is made subject to such change or changes as may be established by the Chief Judge for purposes of equalization of case assignments to all active Judges of the district.

15. The Clerk shall refer any matter or proceeding not provided for under this division of business order to the Chief Judge for assignment or disposition.

16. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, each of the Judges of this Court shall have and perform any and all acts of authority and duty otherwise by law conferred upon him or her to hear, try and dispose of any and all of the cases, matters and business of this Court when he or she consents to do so.

17. All conflicting orders concerning the division of this Court's business heretofore entered are vacated by this order. This order shall be effective immediately and remain in force until rescinded.

DATED this 2nd day of December, 1981.

Walter T. McGovern
Honorable Walter T. McGovern
Chief United States District Judge

Donald S. Voorhees
Honorable Donald S. Voorhees
United States District Judge

Jack E. Tanner
Honorable Jack E. Tanner
United States District Judge

Barbara J. Rothstein
Honorable Barbara J. Rothstein
United States District Judge

John C. Coughenour
Honorable John C. Coughenour
United States District Judge