FILED IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

SEP - 1 1978

JOE R. ROMANE, Clerk
By ..... Deputy

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE	)	
	)	GENERAL ORDER
DIVISION OF COURT BUSINESS	)	

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 includes bankruptcy appeals and Chapter X, XI and XII bankruptcy proceedings, but excludes Section 2255 motions and habeas corpus petitions (including McNeil Island cases) and other similar cases described in paragraph 8.

B. Criminal cases includes appeals from magistrates and all proceedings under Rules 7, 20 and 40, F.R.Cr.P.

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 land condemnation cases filed at Seattle to Senior Judge William J. Lindberg.

All other civil cases filed at Seattle equally to Judges Walter T. McGovern, Morell E. Sharp and Donald S. Voorhees.

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, Morell E. Sharp and Donald S. Voorhees.

4. All naturalization proceedings at Tacoma, including contested petitions, and all McNeil Island cases, 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; and handle all habeas corpus petitions and other cases in which part of the relief sought is release from prison or similar relief, filed in this district, whether or not addressed to a named judge, except cases involving McNeil Island prisoners.

6. Judge Donald S. Voorhees shall be responsible for the call and qualification of petit jurors; and all naturalization proceedings at Seattle, including contested petitions.

7. Judge Morell E. Sharp shall be responsible for all claims for wages and effects of deceased and deserting seamen; and unassigned ex parte matters.

8. Individual petitions for admission to the bar of this court may be heard by any judge of this court. Group admissions pursuant to local rule shall be held at times fixed by the Clerk.

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

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. Reassignment of cases necessitated by the disqualification of a judge shall be made by the Chief Judge. The next case filed shall be assigned to the disqualifying judge. In the event the Chief Judge disqualifies himself, such case shall be assigned to the judge to whom the next case filed would have been assigned, and the next following case filed shall be assigned to the Chief Judge.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, each of the judges of this court shall have and perform any and all of authority and duty otherwise by law conferred upon him to hear, try and dispose of any and all of the cases, matters and business of this court when he consents to do so.

16. All conflicting orders concerning the division of this court's business heretofore entered are vacated by this order. This order shall be effective as of September 1, 1978, and remain in force until rescinded.

DATED this 1st day of September, 1978.

Honorable Walter T. McGovern
Chief United States District Judge

Honorable Morell E. Sharp
United States District Judge

Honorable Donald S. Voorhees
United States District Judge

Honorable Jack E. Tanner
United States District Judge