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2
3 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
4 AT SEATTLE

5 In the matter of

6 DIVISION OF COURT BUSINESS

GENERAL ORDER

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

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12 1. As used herein:

13 A. Civil cases include bankruptcy appeals, habeas corpus petitions, and contested
14 miscellaneous matters, but excludes Section 2255 motions and other similar cases
15 described in paragraph 8.

16 B. Criminal cases include appeals from Magistrate Judges and all proceedings under
17 Rules 7, 20 and 40 FRCP.

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

- 19
- 20 ● All civil cases at Tacoma equally to the active district judges.
 - 21 ● All civil cases at Seattle equally to the active district judges.
 - 22 ● Civil cases may also be assigned to a senior district judge.

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

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- 25 ● All criminal cases at Tacoma equally to the active district judges.
 - 26 ● All criminal cases at Seattle equally to the active district judges.
 - Criminal cases may also be assigned to a senior district judge.

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2 4. All naturalization proceedings at Tacoma, including contested petitions, shall be handled by
3 Judge Ronald B. Leighton. Judge Marsha J. Pechman shall be responsible for all naturalization
4 proceedings at Seattle, including contested petitions.

5 5. Judge John C. Coughenour shall be responsible for the call and discharge of grand juries, the
6 return of indictments, the review of wire tap applications, and all other matters related to the functions of
7 the grand juries. Judge Marsha J. Pechman will serve as backup for the presentation of wire tap
8 applications. Judge Franklin D. Burgess will handle all wire tap applications for Tacoma.

9 6. Judge Ricardo S. Martinez shall be responsible for all issues involving the jury selection
10 process and the call and qualification of petit jurors in Seattle. Judge Ronald B. Leighton shall be
11 responsible for the call and qualification of petit jurors and the jury selection process in Tacoma.

12 7. Judge James L. Robart shall be responsible for all claims for wages and effects of deceased
13 and deserting seamen; and unassigned ex parte matters involving requests for post judgment execution
14 arising in Seattle. Judge Ricardo S. Martinez will be responsible for all other miscellaneous matters in
15 Seattle. Judge Franklin D. Burgess shall be responsible for all claims for wages and effects of deceased
16 and deserting seamen; and unassigned ex parte matters in Tacoma.

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

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

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

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

4 11. The reassignment of a case necessitated by the disqualification of a Judge shall be to the Judge
5 to whom the next case filed would have been assigned; the Judge who has disqualified himself/herself
6 shall be assigned an additional case from the assignment wheel.

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

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

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

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

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20 Dated this 4th day of October, 2004.

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23 /S/ Robert S. Lasnik
24 HONORABLE ROBERT S. LASNIK
25 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE