

FEB 20 1992

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

In the matter of)
) 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 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, habeas corpus petitions, and contested miscellaneous matters, but excludes Section 2255 motions and other similar cases described in paragraph 8.
 - B. Criminal cases include appeals from magistrate judges 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 equally to the active district judges.
- All other civil cases filed at Seattle equally to the active district judges.

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

3 -- All criminal cases at Tacoma equally to the active
4 district judges.

5 -- All criminal cases at Seattle equally to the active
6 district judges.

7 4. All naturalization proceedings at Tacoma, including contested
8 petitions, shall be handled by Judge Jack E. Tanner.

9 5. Judge William L. Dwyer shall be responsible for the call
10 and discharge of grand juries, the return of indictments, and all
11 other matters related to the functions of the grand juries.

12 6. Judge Thomas S. Zilly shall be responsible for all
13 issues involving the jury selection process and the call and
14 qualification of petit jurors. Judge Jack E. Tanner shall be
15 responsible for the call and qualification of petit jurors and
16 the jury selection process in Tacoma.

17 7. Judge Carolyn R. Dinmick shall be responsible for all
18 naturalization proceedings at Seattle, including contested
19 petitions.

20 8. Judge John C. Coughenour shall be responsible for all
21 claims for wages and effects of deceased and deserting seamen;
22 and unassigned ex parte matters in Seattle. Judge Robert J.
23 Bryan shall be responsible for all claims for wages and effects
24 of deceased and deserting seamen; and unassigned ex parte matters
25 in Tacoma.
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1 9. Individual petitions for admission to the bar of this
2 court may be heard by any judge or magistrate judge of this
3 court. Group admissions pursuant to local rule shall be held at
4 times fixed by the clerk.

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

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

13 12. A. When civil or criminal actions involving a common
14 question of law and fact (but not necessarily the same parties)
15 are assigned to different judges and it appears to any judge of
16 this court that there may be good reason to assign all of said
17 actions to one judge, such may be assigned to the judge to whom
18 the case bearing the earliest filing date was assigned, at his or
19 her option.

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

25 13. The reassignment of a case necessitated by the
26 disqualification of a judge shall be to the judge to whom the

1 next case filed would have been assigned; the judge who has
2 disqualified himself/herself shall be assigned an additional case
3 the next time his/her name is reached in the assignment wheel.

4 14. The assignment of all civil and criminal cases as above
5 noted is made subject to such change or changes as may be
6 established by the chief judge for the purposes of equalization
7 of case assignments to all active judges of the district.

8 15. The clerk shall refer any matter or proceeding not
9 provided for under this division of business order to the chief
10 judge for assignment or disposition.

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

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

20 Dated this 19th day of February, 1992.

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23 _____
24 HONORABLE BARBARA J. ROTHSTEIN
25 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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