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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

ACTIONS SEEKING REVIEW OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY'S
FINAL DECISION DENYING AN
APPLICATION FOR BENEFITS

**GENERAL ORDER 04-15
RE: PILOT PROGRAM FOR
ELECTRONIC SERVICE
IN SOCIAL SECURITY CASES**

A significant number of cases seeking review of the Commissioner of Social Security's ("Commissioner") decision denying an application for benefits are filed in this District. The Court and the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington ("USAO-WDWA") share an interest in facilitating the efficient resolution of those complaints. To this end, the USAO-WDWA has agreed to participate in a one-year Pilot Program for Electronic Service in Social Security Cases ("Pilot Program"). This General Order sets forth the terms of the Pilot Program.

THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS:

(1) The effective date of the Pilot Program for electronic service shall be June 1, 2015, and shall run for twelve months until June 1, 2016, provided that during this period, upon

1 one month's notice, the USAO-WDWA may unilaterally modify or terminate the Pilot Program
2 in light of experience.

3 (2) The Pilot Program shall apply only to complaints instituted by a plaintiff against
4 the Commissioner in which the only claim that is being brought is pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §
5 405(g). It shall not apply to any other complaint. In particular, the Pilot Program does not apply
6 to (a) complaints that include claims against the Commissioner in addition to, or other than,
7 those brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g); or (b) complaints that include defendants other
8 than the Commissioner.

9 (3) Plaintiffs who wish to avail themselves of the Pilot Program for electronic service
10 shall:

11 A. Provide the USAO-WDWA with a copy of the summons and complaint by email to
12 USAWAW.SSAClerk@usdoj.gov;

13 B. Provide the USAO-WDWA with the identifying information set forth in General
14 **Order 05-15** by email to USAWAW.SSAClerk@usdoj.gov; **and**

15 C. File a Certificate of Service through the Court's Electronic Court Filing ("ECF")
16 system indicating when the summons and complaint and identifying information was sent to the
17 USAO-WDWA's designated email address.

18 (4) Service of a summons and complaint under this Pilot Program will be considered
19 complete only when all three steps in paragraph 3 above have been completed.

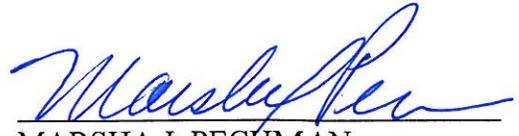
20 (5) If a plaintiff chooses to avail himself or herself of this Pilot Program and
21 effectuates service in accordance with this General Order, the USAO-WDWA agrees not to raise
22 insufficient service as a defense in its answer or other response to the complaint. However,
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1 nothing in this General Order or the Pilot Program on electronic service shall be deemed to be a
2 waiver of service pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(d).

3 (6) The Court reserves the right to rescind the order entirely as the Court determines
4 necessary in light of experience.

5 (7) The Clerk of Court shall post a copy of this Order on the Court's website, and
6 shall distribute copies as the Clerk deems appropriate.

7 DATED this 1st day of June, 2015.

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10 MARSHA J. PECHMAN
11 Chief United States District Judge
12 Western District of Washington
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