

OCT 21 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 includes bankruptcy appeals and Chapter X, XI and XII bankruptcy proceedings, if any, 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, Fed.R.Crim.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.

- 1 -- All admiralty and non-jury maritime cases filed
2 at Seattle to Senior Judge William T. Beeks.
3 -- All other civil cases filed at Seattle equally
4 to Judges Walter T. McGovern, Donald S. Voorhees,
5 Barbara J. Rothstein and John C. Coughenour.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 9. Individual petitions for admission to the bar
2 of this Court may be heard by any Judge of this Court.
3 Group admissions pursuant to local rule shall be held at
4 times fixed by the Clerk.

5 10. Proceedings under Section 2255, Title 28,
6 United States Code, shall be assigned to and handled by
7 the Judge who imposed 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
11 dispose of the matter requiring immediate attention, but
12 such action shall not constitute reassignment of the case
13 or proceeding.

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

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

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

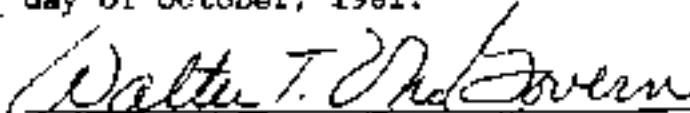
1 14. The assignment of all civil and criminal cases
2 as above noted is made subject to such change or changes as
3 may be established by the Chief Judge for purposes of
4 equalization of case assignments to all active Judges of
5 the district.

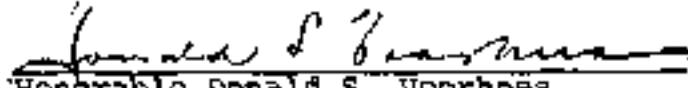
6 15. The Clerk shall refer any matter or proceeding
7 not provided for under this division of business order to
8 the Chief Judge for assignment or disposition.

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

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

19 DATED this 21ST day of October, 1981.

20 
21 Honorable Walter T. McGovern
22 Chief United States District Judge

23 
24 Honorable Donald S. Voorhees
25 United States District Judge

26 
27 Honorable Jack E. Tanner
28 United States District Judge

29 
30 Honorable Barbara J. Rothstein
31 United States District Judge

32 
Honorable John C. Coughenour
United States District Judge