

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**

In the matter of

DIVISION OF COURT BUSINESS

GENERAL ORDER NO. 07-03

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

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

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

1
2
3
4 4. All naturalization proceedings at Tacoma, including contested petitions, shall be handled by
5 Judge Benjamin H. Settle. Judge Richard A. Jones shall be responsible for all naturalization proceedings
6 at Seattle, including contested petitions.

7 5. Judge Ricardo S. Martinez shall be responsible for the call and discharge of grand juries, the
8 return of indictments, the review of wire tap applications, and all other matters related to the functions
9 of the grand juries. Judge James L. Robart will serve as backup for the presentation of wire tap
10 applications. Judge Ronald B. Leighton will handle all wire tap applications for Tacoma.

11 6. Judge Marsha J. Pechman shall be responsible for all issues involving the jury selection
12 process and the call and qualification of petit jurors in Seattle. Judge Benjamin H. Settle shall be
13 responsible for the call and qualification of petit jurors and the jury selection process in Tacoma.

14 7. Judge Marsha J. Pechman shall be responsible for all claims for wages and effects of deceased
15 and deserting seamen; and unassigned ex parte matters involving requests for post judgment execution
16 arising in Seattle. Judge James L. Robart will be responsible for all other miscellaneous matters in
17 Seattle. Judge Ronald B. Leighton shall be responsible for all claims for wages and effects of deceased
18 and deserting seamen; and unassigned ex parte matters in Tacoma.

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

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

24 10. A. When civil or criminal actions involving a common question of law and fact (but not
25 necessarily the same parties) are assigned to different Judges and it appears to any Judge of this court that
26 there may be good reason to assign all of said actions to one Judge, such may be assigned to the Judge
27 to 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
2 by 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
5 Judge to whom the next case filed would have been assigned; the Judge who has disqualified
6 himself/herself 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 do so.

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

17
18
19 Dated this 14th day of November, 2007.

20
21
22 
23 HONORABLE ROBERT S. LASNIK
24 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
25
26
27
28