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FEB 20 1990

BY CLERK OF COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
COURT

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 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 magistrates and all proceedings under Rules 7, 20 and 40 FRCrP.

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

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2 -- All civil cases filed at Tacoma equally to Judge
3 Jack E. Tanner and Judge Robert J. Bryan.

4 -- All other civil cases filed at Seattle equally
5 to Judges Walter T. McGovern, Barbara J. Rothstein,
6 John C. Coughenour, Carolyn R. Dimmick, William L.
7 Dwyer, and Thomas S. Zilly.

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

10 -- All criminal cases at Tacoma equally to Judge
11 Jack E. Tanner and Judge Robert J. Bryan.

12 -- All criminal cases at Seattle equally to Judges
13 Barbara J. Rothstein, John C. Coughenour, Carolyn R.
14 Dimmick, William L. Dwyer, and Thomas S. Zilly.

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

17 5. Judge Thomas S. Zilly shall be responsible for the call
18 and discharge of grand juries, the return of indictments, and all
19 other matters related to the functions of the grand juries.

20 6. Judge John C. Coughenour shall be responsible for all
21 issues involving the jury selection process and the call and
22 qualification of petit jurors. Judge Jack E. Tanner shall be
23 responsible for the call and qualification of petit jurors and the
24 jury selection process in Tacoma.

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1 7. Judge William L. Dwyer shall be responsible for all
2 naturalization proceedings at Seattle, including contested
3 petitions.

4 8. Judge Carolyn R. Dimmick shall be responsible for all
5 claims for wages and effects of deceased and deserting seamen; and
6 unassigned ex parte matters in Seattle. Judge Robert J. Bryan
7 shall be responsible for all claims for wages and effects of
8 deceased and deserting seamen; and unassigned ex parte matters in
9 Tacoma.

10 9. Individual petitions for admission to the bar of this
11 Court may be heard by any Judge or Magistrate of this Court. Group
12 admissions pursuant to local rule shall be held at times fixed by
13 the Clerk.

14 10. Proceedings under Section 2255, Title 20, United States
15 Code, shall be assigned to and handled by the Judge who imposed the
16 sentence involved.

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

22 12. A. When civil or criminal actions involving a common
23 question of law and fact (but not necessarily the same parties)
24 are assigned to different Judges and it appears to any Judge of
25 this Court that there may be good reason to assign all of said

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1 actions to one Judge, such may be assigned to the Judge to whom the
2 case bearing the earliest filing date was assigned, at his option.

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

8 13. The reassignment of a case necessitated by the
9 disqualification of a Judge shall be to the Judge to whom the next
10 case filed would have been assigned; the Judge who has disqualified
11 himself/herself shall be assigned an additional case the next time
12 his/her name is reached in the assignment wheel.

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

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

20 16. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, each of the
21 Judges of this Court shall have and perform any and all acts of
22 authority and duty otherwise by law conferred upon him or her to
23 hear, try and dispose of any and all of the cases, matters and
24 business of this Court when he or she consents to do so.

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

Dated this 15th day of February, 1990.


HONORABLE BARBARA J. ROTHSTEIN
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE