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MAR 10 1988

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
TACOMA

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 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, FRCP.

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

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

GENERAL ORDER

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

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

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

-- All criminal cases at Seattle equally to Judges Walter T. McGovern, Barbara J. Rothstein, John C. Coughenour, Carolyn R. Dimmick, and William L. Dwyer.

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

5. Judge John C. Coughenour shall be responsible for the call and discharge of grand juries, the return of indictments, and all other matters related to the functions of the grand juries.

6. Judge Carolyn R. Dimmick shall be responsible for all issues involving the jury selection process and the call and qualification of petit jurors. Judge Jack E. Tanner shall be responsible for the call and qualification of petit jurors and the jury selection process in Tacoma.

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

8. Judge William L. Dwyer shall be responsible for all

1 claims for wages and effects of deceased and deserting seamen; and
2 unassigned ex parte matters in Seattle. Judge Robert J. Bryan
3 shall be responsible for all claims for wages and effects of
4 deceased and deserting seamen; and unassigned ex parte matters in
5 Tacoma.

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

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

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

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

25 B. Motions to consolidate civil or criminal actions for
26 trial, or otherwise, shall be heard by the Judge to whom the case
bearing the earliest filing date has been assigned, and in the

1 event consolidation is ordered, the consolidated cases shall be
2 heard by said Judge.

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

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

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

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

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

24 Dated this 10th day of March, 1988.

25 
26 _____
Honorable Barbara J. Rothstein
Chief United States District Judge