The United States District Court for the Western District of Washington (the Court), the Washington Department of Corrections (WDOC), and the Washington Office of the Attorney General (WOAG) have performed a comprehensive evaluation of the one-year electronic filing pilot project (Pilot Project), commenced on June 1, 2015, and have determined that the practices established under this pilot project have increased efficiencies in *pro se* prisoner filings and saved costs to prisoner litigants, the WDOC, and the Court by reducing expenses for paper, envelopes, copying, postage, and staff time.

## THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. The Prisoner E-Filing Initiative established by the pilot project under General Order No. 02-15 of this Court is adopted in full and remains **mandatory** for all prisoner litigants incarcerated at facilities actively engaged in the Prisoner E-Filing Initiative.
- 2. The Prisoner E-Filing Initiative shall be expanded to include all WDOC facilities in the State of Washington, at a schedule to be agreed upon by the Court, the WDOC and WOAG. Immediate expansion is anticipated to include Coyote Ridge Correctional Center, Airway Heights Correctional Center, and Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC).
- 3. The Agreement to accept delivery of service documents via electronic mail (e-mail), as signed by the representative of the WOAG, is incorporated into the Prisoner E-Filing Initiative and attached hereto as Exhibit No.1.
- 4. The Clerk of Court is authorized to develop, implement, publish, and modify as necessary additional administrative procedures to manage the Prisoner E-Filing Initiative.

This General Order shall become effective June 1, 2016. The Court or WDOC may terminate the E-Filing Pilot Project at any time.

**Dated:** May 20, 2016.

RICARDO S. MARTINEZ

CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

## PRISONER E-FILING INITIATIVE: CONSENT TO RECEIVE ELECTRONIC NOTICE AND AUTHORIZING DELIVERY OF SERVICE DOCUMENTS VIA E-MAIL

May 18, 2016

The United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington, the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC), and the Washington State Attorney General's Office (AGO) have participated in a yearlong Prison E-Filing Pilot Project at two DOC correctional facilities. Given the success of the pilot project, the Court and the state entities have agreed to expand prison e-filing to additional DOC facilities.

To achieve additional efficiencies, the AGO consents to receive electronic copies of service-related documents (complaint / petition, order directing service, waiver forms) that otherwise would be sent via first class mail for prison litigants proceeding *in forma pauperis*. This consent does not constitute a waiver of service of process, and is limited as follows: (1) to cases involving pro se prison litigants in custody at DOC facilities that are actively engaged in the Prisoner Electronic Filing Initiatives for the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington and have established procedures for the receipt and issuance of electronic notice; and (2) to service related documents for defendants who are alleged to be employees of the State of Washington.

Notice by electronic means is complete as set forth below.

Upon issuing an order directing service on a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint or a 28 U.S.C. § 2254 or 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas corpus petition, the court's electronic filing system will initiate a Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF). The court will also assemble a service packet containing materials necessary to disseminate "waiver of service" documents to named, state employee Defendants in civil rights actions and materials necessary for service on named Respondents in habeas actions. The NEF and service packet will be delivered to the email addresses designated by the AGO, the Department of Corrections (DOC), and participating facility for these types of filings.

Upon receiving the service related documents, the AGO will undertake to distribute them to the defendants who are current state employees. The individual

## EXHIBIT 1

defendant will then have the opportunity to waive service within the timeframe set forth in the service documents. If the AGO determines a defendant does not work or no longer works for the State of Washington, or is unable to determine the identity of any defendant, or the defendant declines to waive service, the AGO will promptly file a notice to that effect with the Court, and service on those individuals will occur by further direction of the Court.

By this registration, the undersigned agrees to abide by the court's Local Rules and Administrative Procedures for Electronic Case Filing.

May 20, 2016

For the Washington Office of Attorney General

Tim Lang

Sr. Assistant Attorney General

Corrections Division

Washington State Attorney General's Office