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DEPT. OF JUSTICE
DIVISION OF COURT BUSINESS
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
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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, FRCrP.

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 other civil cases filed at Seattle equally
2 to Judges Walter T. McGovern, Donald S. Voorhees,
3 Barbara J. Rothstein, John C. Coughenour, and
4 Carolyn R. Dimmick.

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

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

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

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

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

18 6. Judge Carolyn R. Dimmick shall be responsible for the
19 call and qualification of petit jurors.

20 7. Judge Barbara J. Rothstein shall be responsible for all
21 issues involving the jury selection process.

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

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1 9. Judge Donald S. Voorhees shall be responsible for all
2 claims for wages and effects of deceased and deserting seamen; and
3 unassigned ex parte matters.

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

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

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

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

23 B. Motions to consolidate civil or criminal actions for
24 trial, or otherwise, shall be heard by the Judge to whom the case
25 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.

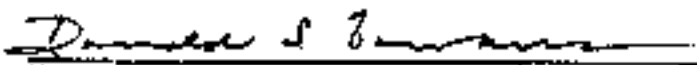
15 16. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, each of the
16 Judges of this Court shall have and perform any and all acts of
17 authority and duty otherwise by law conferred upon him or her to
18 hear, try and dispose of any and all of the cases, matters and
19 business of this Court when he or she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


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

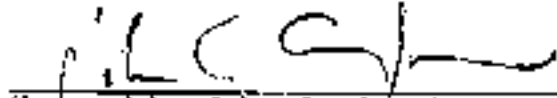
5 Dated this 6th day of May, 1985.

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7 
8 Honorable Walter T. McGovern
9 Chief United States District Judge

10 
11 Honorable Donald S. Voorhees
12 United States District Judge

13 
14 Honorable Jack E. Tanner
15 United States District Judge

16 
17 Honorable Barbara J. Rothstein
18 United States District Judge

19 
20 Honorable John C. Coughenour
21 United States District Judge

22 
23 Honorable Carolyn R. Dimmick
24 United States District Judge

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