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2 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

FILED IN THE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

JUL 15 1974

EDGAR SCOFIELD, Clerk  
By..... Deputy

3 IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
4 DIVISION OF COURT BUSINESS ) GENERAL ORDER

5  
6 Pursuant to the provisions of Title 28, United States Code,  
7 Section 137, it is hereby agreed and ordered by the undersigned active  
8 judges of this court that the division of this court's business among  
9 said judges shall be as hereinafter stated:

10 1. As used herein:

11 A. Civil cases includes bankruptcy appeals and Chapter X,  
12 XI and XII bankruptcy proceedings, but excludes Section 2255 motions and  
13 habeas corpus petitions (including McNeil Island cases) and other  
14 similar cases described in paragraph 8.

15 B. Criminal cases includes appeals from magistrates and  
16 all proceedings under Rules 7, 20 and 40, F.R.Cr.P.

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

19 All civil cases filed at Tacoma to Chief Judge William N. Goodwin.

20 All admiralty and non-jury maritime cases filed at Seattle to  
21 Senior Judge William T. Beeks.

22 All land condemnation cases filed at Seattle to Senior Judge  
23 William J. Lindberg.

24 All other civil cases filed at Seattle equally to Judges  
25 Walter T. McGovern, Morell E. Sharp and Donald S. Voorhees.

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

28 All criminal cases at Tacoma to Chief Judge William N. Goodwin.

29 All criminal cases at Seattle equally to Judges Walter T.  
30 McGovern, Morell E. Sharp and Donald S. Voorhees.

1                   4. All naturalization proceedings at Tacoma, including  
2 contested petitions, and all McNeil Island cases, shall be handled by  
3 Chief Judge William N. Goodwin.

4                   5. Senior Judge William J. Lindberg shall be responsible for  
5 the call and discharge of grand juries, the return of indictments, and  
6 all other matters related to the functions of the grand jury.

7                   6. Judge Morell E. Sharp shall be responsible for the call  
8 and qualification of petit jurors, all claims for wages and effects  
9 of deceased and deserting seamen; and unassigned ex parte matters.

10                  7. Individual petitions for admission to the bar of this court  
11 may be heard by any judge of this court. Group admissions pursuant to  
12 local rule shall be held at times fixed by the Clerk.

13                  8. Judge Donald S. Voorhees shall handle all habeas corpus  
14 petitions and other cases in which part of the relief sought is release  
15 from prison or similar relief, filed in this district, whether or not  
16 addressed to a named judge, except cases involving McNeil Island  
17 prisoners; and all naturalization proceedings at Seattle, including  
18 contested petitions.

19                  9. Proceedings under Section 2255, Title 28, United States Code,  
20 shall be assigned to and handled by the judge who imposed the sentence  
21 involved. Judge Donald S. Voorhees shall handle all such proceedings  
22 in connection with sentences imposed by Senior Judge William T. Beeks.

23                  10. If immediate action is necessary in any case or proceeding  
24 assigned to a particular judge and that judge is unavailable for any  
25 reason, any other judge may hear and dispose of the matter requiring  
26 immediate attention, but such action shall not constitute reassignment  
27 of the case or proceeding.

28                  11. A. When civil or criminal actions involving a common  
29 question of law and fact (but not necessarily the same parties) are  
30 assigned to different judges and it appears to the Clerk or any judge  
31 of this court that there may be good reason to assign all of said actions  
32 to one judge, such shall be assigned to the judge to whom the case  
bearing the earliest filing date was assigned.

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


6 12. Reassignment of cases necessitated by the disqualification  
7 of a judge shall be made by the Chief Judge. The next civil case filed  
8 shall be assigned to the disqualifying judge. In the event the Chief  
9 Judge disqualifies himself, such case shall be assigned to the judge  
10 to whom the next case filed would have been assigned, and the next  
11 following case filed shall be assigned to the Chief Judge.


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


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


20 15. All conflicting orders concerning the division of this  
21 court's business heretofore entered are vacated by this order. This  
22 order shall be effective as of July 15, 1974 and remain in force until  
23 rescinded.

24 Dated this 15th day of July, 1974.

25   
26 Honorable William N. Goodwin  
27 Chief United States District Court Judge

28   
29 Honorable Walter T. McGovern  
30 United States District Judge

31   
32 Honorable Morell E. Sharp  
United States District Judge

  
Honorable Donald S. Voorhees  
United States District Judge