

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32

FILED IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

SEP - 1 1978

JOE R. ROMANE, Clerk
By.....Deputy

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
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 includes bankruptcy appeals and Chapter X, XI and XII bankruptcy proceedings, but excludes Section 2255 motions and habeas corpus petitions (including McNeil Island Cases) and other similar cases described in paragraph 8.

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

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

All civil cases filed at Tacoma to Judge Jack E. Tanner.

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

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

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

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

6 All criminal cases at Tacoma to Judge Jack E. Tanner.

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

9 4. All naturalization proceedings at Tacoma, in-
10 cluding contested petitions, and all McNeil Island cases,
11 shall be handled by Judge Jack E. Tanner.

12 5. Senior Judge William J. Lindberg shall be
13 responsible for the call and discharge of Grand Juries,
14 the return of indictments, and all other matters related to
15 the functions of the Grand Juries; and handle all habeas
16 corpus petitions and other cases in which part of the relief
17 sought is release from prison or similar relief, filed in
18 this district, whether or not addressed to a named judge,
19 except cases involving McNeil Island prisoners.

20 6. Judge Donald S. Voorhees shall be responsible
21 for the call and qualification of petit jurors; and all
22 naturalization proceedings at Seattle, including contested
23 petitions.

24 7. Judge Morell E. Sharp shall be responsible for
25 all claims for wages and effects of deceased and deserting
26 seamen; and unassigned ex parte matters.

27 8. Individual petitions for admission to the bar
28 of this court may be heard by any judge of this court. Group
29 admissions pursuant to local rule shall be held at times
30 fixed by the Clerk.

1 9. Proceedings under Section 2255, Title 28, United
2 States Code, shall be assigned to and handled by the judge
3 who imposed the sentence involved.

4 10. If immediate action is necessary in any case or
5 proceeding assigned to a particular judge and that judge is
6 unavailable for any reason, any other judge may hear and
7 dispose of the matter requiring immediate attention, but
8 such action shall not constitute reassignment of the case or
9 proceeding.

10 11. A. When civil or criminal actions involving a
11 common question of law and fact (but not necessarily the
12 same parties) are assigned to different judges and it appears
13 to any judge of this court that there may be good reason to
14 assign all of said actions to one judge, such may be assigned
15 to the judge to whom the case bearing the earliest filing
16 date was assigned, at his option.

17 B. Motions to consolidate civil or criminal
18 actions for trial, or otherwise, shall be heard by the judge
19 to whom the case bearing the earliest filing date has been
20 assigned, and in the event consolidation is ordered, the
21 consolidated cases shall be heard by said judge.

22 12. Reassignment of cases necessitated by the dis-
23 qualification of a judge shall be made by the Chief Judge.
24 The next case filed shall be assigned to the disqualifying
25 judge. In the event the Chief Judge disqualifies himself,
26 such case shall be assigned to the judge to whom the next
27 case filed would have been assigned, and the next following
28 case filed shall be assigned to the Chief Judge.

29 13. The assignment of all civil and criminal cases as
30 above noted is made subject to such change or changes as may
31 be established by the Chief Judge for purposes of equalization
32 of case assignments to all active judges of the district.

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


4 15. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, each of
5 the judges of this court shall have and perform any and all
6 of authority and duty otherwise by law conferred upon him to
7 hear, try and dispose of any and all of the cases, matters
8 and business of this court when he consents to do so.

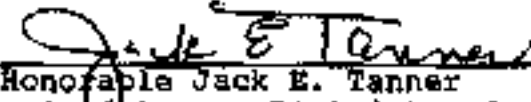
9 16. All conflicting orders concerning the division of
10 this court's business heretofore entered are vacated by this
11 order. This order shall be effective as of September 1, 1978,
12 and remain in force until rescinded.

13 DATED this 1st day of September, 1978.

14
15 
16 Honorable Walter T. McGovern
17 Chief United States District Judge

18 
19 Honorable Morell E. Sharp
20 United States District Judge

21 
22 Honorable Donald S. Voorhees
23 United States District Judge

24 
25 Honorable Jack E. Tanner
26 United States District Judge
27
28
29
30
31
32