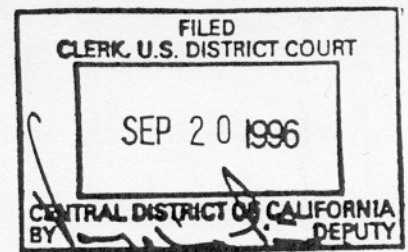


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA



IN THE MATTER OF )  
)  
METHOD OF ALLOCATING )  
CRIMINAL AND COMPLEX )  
CRIMINAL CASES AMONG )  
THE DIVISIONS OF THE )  
CENTRAL DISTRICT )  
COURT OF CALIFORNIA )

GENERAL ORDER NO. 96-21

WHEREAS, in order to bring about an equal distribution of civil and criminal cases, the Court will periodically review and modify the method of allocating cases among the Divisions,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that General Order No. 95-2 be amended as follows:

"3. Assignment of Criminal Cases to the Southern Division

A. (i) A criminal indictment or information may be assigned to the Southern Division if at least one of the crimes charged, or any part thereof, is alleged to have been committed within the Southern Division.

(ii) If the government advises the Court that the presentation of its case-in-chief will exceed sixteen (16) trial days, the case shall be randomly assigned to a judge from a separate Southern Division Complex Criminal Assignment Wheel.

B. (i) In order to balance the number of criminal cases and complex criminal cases assigned to the judicial officers of the Western, Southern and Eastern Divisions, there shall be determined a maximum number of criminal cases and complex criminal cases allowed for assignment to the Southern Division for a given period. This predetermined number shall be adjusted as needed.

(ii) Once the predetermined number of criminal cases or complex criminal cases has been assigned to the Southern Division for the given period, all additional criminal cases or complex criminal cases filed during that period shall be

assigned to the Western Division.

(iii) If it appears that the actual number of criminal cases or complex criminal cases assigned to the Southern Division for the given period will be less than the predetermined number of cases allowed for assignment, the Clerk shall promptly notify the Chief Judge and the Chair of the Case Management and Assignment Committee. To reduce the discrepancy, the Clerk may be directed to include in the Western Division criminal assignment wheel or complex criminal assignment wheel a specific number of criminal cards or complex criminal cards for each Southern Division judicial officer for random assignment. The number of criminal cards or complex criminal cards for Southern Division judicial officers added to the Western Division assignment wheels shall be credited against the Southern Division predetermined number of cases allowed for assignment for the given period.

C. All guilty pleas pursuant to Federal Rule 20 for arrests within the Southern Division shall be assigned to the Southern Division.

D. For any transfer of a case to or from any Division that requires a change of the individual attorney of record as approved by the transferor judge, there shall be a new minimum 30-day period for trial preparation which shall run from the day of the order of transfer, unless waived by the parties.

#### 4. Assignment of Criminal Cases to the Eastern Division

A. (i) A criminal indictment or information may be assigned to the Eastern Division if all of the crimes charged are alleged to have been committed within the Eastern Division.

(ii) If the government advises the Court that the presentation of its case-in-chief will exceed sixteen (16) trial days, the case shall be randomly assigned to a judge from a separate Eastern Division Complex Criminal Assignment Wheel.

B. (i) In order to balance the number of criminal cases and complex criminal cases assigned to the judicial officers of the Western, Southern and Eastern



Divisions, there shall be determined a maximum number of criminal cases and complex criminal cases allowed for assignment to the Eastern Division for a given period. This predetermined number shall be adjusted as needed.

(ii) Once the predetermined number of criminal cases or complex criminal cases has been assigned to the Eastern Division for the given period, all additional criminal cases or complex criminal cases filed during that period shall be assigned to the Western Division.

(iii) If it appears that the actual number of criminal cases or complex criminal cases assigned to the Eastern Division for the given period will be less than the predetermined number of cases allowed for assignment, the Clerk shall promptly notify the Chief Judge and the Chair of the Case Management and Assignment Committee. To reduce the discrepancy, the Clerk may be directed to include in the Western Division criminal assignment wheel or complex criminal assignment wheel a specific number of criminal cards or complex criminal cards for each Eastern Division judicial officer for random assignment. The number of criminal cards or complex criminal cards for Eastern Division judicial officers added to the Western Division assignment wheels shall be credited against the Eastern Division predetermined number of cases allowed for assignment for the given period.

C. All guilty pleas pursuant to Federal Rule 20 for arrests within the Eastern Division shall be assigned to the Eastern Division.

D. For any transfer of a case to or from any Division that requires a change of the individual attorney of record as approved by the transferor judge, there shall be a new minimum 30-day period for trial preparation which shall run from the day of the order of transfer, unless waived by the parties."

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this amendment shall not affect the criminal cases presently assigned.