STATE OF ILLINOIS	; )	
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COUNTY OF COOK	)	

## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY LAW DIVISION

## General Administrative Order 91-4 Random Assignment of Cases

Cases on the Jury and Non-Jury Trial Assignment Calls when deemed ready shall be assigned to a trial judge by random electronic process except as provided in paragraph hereafter. Such assignment shall be made hereinafter as provided.

- 1.1 Determination of Available Trial Judges
  - The Presiding Judge of the Law Division or any a. judge he or she designates to sit Assignment Judge shall determine which judges of trial section of the Law Division available for trial assignment. Cases ready for trial shall be randomly assigned to such judges in accordance with section 1.2 of this Order.
- 1.2 Assignment of Cases Ready for Trial
  - a. The names of all judges available for trial shall be entered into the computer immediately upon the determination that they are available. At the direction of the Assignment Judge, case assignment shall be conducted in open court by random electronic process. When a case is ready for trial, as determined by the Assignment Judge, the computer operator shall enter the names of the

parties and the case number into the electronic data processing terminal located in Courtroom 2005. The computer then will randomly assign the case to an available judge.

- b. The case number, names of parties and the name of the trial judge assigned shall be announced and shall be printed in triplicate immediately after the assignment is accomplished. The original shall be placed in the court file. A copy shall be retained in the assignment room. The other copy shall be provided to the Assignment Judge. Case assignment information shall be retained in the data memory banks of the electronic data processing equipment.
- c. Corrections in data entries
  - made by the person assigned to operate the Law Division assignment terminal in Courtroom 2005 only after compliance with the following procedures:
    - a. The operator shall fill out the printed "corrections form" providing the incorrect and proposed correct entry,
    - b. The operator shall sign the form,
    - c. The Assignment Judge shall certify by his or her signature the accuracy of the information contained in the corrections form.
  - (ii) The corrected entry may then be made.

(iii) All information regarding a correction including the incorrect and correct entries shall be retained in the data memory banks of the electronic data processing equipment.

## 1.3 Change of Venue

- whenever a judge assigned to the Law Division grants a change of venue or recuses himself or herself, the case shall be transferred to the presiding Judge or Assignment Judge who shall order reassignment of the case by random electronic process.
  - (i) The electronic data processing equipment shall automatically exclude the name of any trial judge who has disqualified himself or herself pursuant to a motion for change of venue or recusal.
  - (ii) Procedures for assignment pursuant to a change of venue shall be the same as set forth in section 1.2 of this Order.

## 1.4 Manual Assignment of Cases by the Presiding Judge

Notwithstanding the aforementioned provisions of Order, the Presiding Judge may this without reference the assignment orders electronic random assignment system in cases which intensive judicial supervision and require management such as mass tort, commercial airplane crash, explosion, multiparty or other unusual situations which necessitate extensive pretrial

activity or extended trial time. Such litigation may be assigned to one judge for all purposes including trial. Such assignment may be made at an early stage in the litigation upon motion of a party with proper notice or upon the court's own motion. This exception shall be exercised on a very limited basis as the interests of justice may require.

- b. Whenever the computer is not functioning for reasons beyond the control of the court, the Assignment Judge may manually assign cases for immediate trial while computer assignment is unavailable.
- c. Assignments pursuant to this section shall be by draft order which shall state the reason that the assignment was made without use of the electronic random assignment system. All such assignment orders shall be maintained by the Clerk of the Circuit Court in one location available for public review as well as in the court file.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Order is effective May 15, 1991 and will be spread upon the records of this court.

Dated at Chicago, Illinois this 14th day of May, 1991.

ENTER:

DOWALD P. O'CONNELL Presiding Judge

Law Division

Donald P. O'Connell #0002

MAY 14 1991

Circuit Court