

STATE OF MICHIGAN 6TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT	SPECIAL DOCKET CASES MEDIATED FOR \$15,000 OR LESS	JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 1999-03J
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Sixth Circuit Court	Local Administrative Order 1999-03J
43 rd District Court	Local Administrative Order 1999-
44 th District Court	Local Administrative Order 1999-
45A District Court	Local Administrative Order 1999-
45B District Court	Local Administrative Order 1999-
46 th District Court	Local Administrative Order 1999-
47 th District Court	Local Administrative Order 1999-
48 th District Court	Local Administrative Order 1999-
50 th District Court	Local Administrative Order 1999-
51 st District Court	Local Administrative Order 1999-
52 nd District Court	Local Administrative Order 1999-

I. Purpose

This order is promulgated in compliance with Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 1998-1. The objective of this order is to serve the interests of the litigants in those cases which would have been removed to district court prior to the repeal of MCL 600.641. In light of the adoption of this order, the Sixth Judicial Circuit will not transfer cases to district court under MCR 2.227 based on the amount in controversy. This order contemplates, in letter and in spirit, that all affected cases will be processed without unnecessary delay.

II. Special Docket

A. The Sixth Judicial Circuit Court shall create a Special Docket for cases mediated in that Court under MCR .2403, in which the aggregate award is \$15,000 or less. If the mediation award is rejected, the circuit court shall enter an order referring it to the Assignment Clerk for assignment to the Special Docket. However, cases of significant complexity are excluded from this administrative order and shall not be assigned to the Special Docket, including but not limited to the following case types.

1. Domestic relations actions
2. Elliott Larsen civil rights claims
3. Federal civil rights claims
4. Condemnation actions
5. Products liability actions
6. Medical and other professional malpractice actions
7. Zoning actions
8. Actions raising significant constitutional issues

- B. Any dispute about the propriety of assigned cases shall be decided by the chief judge of the circuit court and the chief judge of the district court. If the two chief judges are unable to resolve the dispute, the chief circuit judge shall refer the matter to the State Court Administrator.

III. Procedure

- A. When a case is assigned to the Special Docket, the Assignment Clerk shall assign a judge to manage the case through disposition and all post-judgment proceedings. Cases shall be assigned to all Sixth Circuit Court general jurisdiction judges and all Oakland County district court judges by random draw, irrespective of venue.
- B. Cases will remain as circuit court cases; however, proceedings in a case assigned to a district judge shall be held at the location where the district judge normally sits. This administrative order shall serve as a request to the State Court Administrator to assign the Oakland County district court judges to the Oakland County Circuit Court to conduct proceedings on cases assigned to the Special Docket pursuant to this order.
- C. Jury panels will be drawn from the circuit court jury pool as defined by MCL 600.1324. The procedure for drawing jurors will be established by the Circuit Court Jury Clerk. The Circuit Court shall be responsible for paying all jury fees.
- D. In order to facilitate compliance with circuit court reporting requirements, district judges shall submit reports on the status of each case assigned pursuant to this order to the chief judge of the circuit court on or about January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

IV. Effective Dates: Applicability

This Administrative Order is effective June 1, 1999, and applies to cases mediated on or after that date. The order shall remain in effect until May 31, 2000. The circuit and district courts shall maintain information pertaining to cases handled pursuant to this order and report such information to the Michigan Supreme Court as requested.

DATED: June 1, 1999

/s Hon. Edward Sosnick
CHIEF JUDGE, Edward Sosnick