



THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF MICHIGAN

TIMOTHY M. KENNY
CHIEF JUDGE

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DOCKET DIRECTIVE 2019 – 13

STATE OF MICHIGAN
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUBJECT: Business Court Case Assignments

This Docket Directive rescinds and replaces Docket Directive 2016-04.

This Docket Directive, issued pursuant to MCR 8.110 and MCR 8.111, is necessary to implement the Business Court in the Third Judicial Circuit Court pursuant to 2012 PA 333, MCL 600.8031, *et seq.*, and to ensure the efficient and equitable process of assigning cases to the Business Court of the Third Judicial Circuit.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:


1. All cases designated as within the jurisdiction of the Business Court, pursuant to MCL 600.8031 and MCL 600.8033 (Business Court Cases), shall be assigned as follows:
 - A. **Effective October 24, 2019:** Judges Lita Popke, Brian Sullivan, Edward Ewell, Jr., Muriel Hughes, and David Allen shall receive a full draw of Business Court Cases.
 - B. **Effective October 24, 2019:** Judges appointed to the Business Court, subject to paragraph (3), shall receive a 3/4 draw of other Civil case types pursuant to the Local Administrative Order on General Civil Case Assignments.
 - C. **Effective July 1, 2013:** Judges shall continue to preside over the cases assigned to them prior to July 1, 2013. Business Court cases pending as of June 30, 2013 shall not be transferred to judges assigned to the Business Court unless they are reassigned to a Business Court judge

pursuant to an order of reassignment. The reassignment shall be issued by the Judge designated to hear motions regarding the assignment of Business Court cases.

If a Business Court Case is initiated on or after July 1, 2013 that arises out of the same transaction or occurrence as a Business Court case previously filed that is in closed status, the newly filed Business Court case shall be assigned to a Business Court Judge.

2. **Effective July 11, 2016**, as provided in Local Administrative Order 2013-28, Judge Brian Sullivan, or his judicial alternate as necessary, is the designee assigned to review Business Court case assignments under MCL 600.8035(7). Motions challenging a decision regarding the assignment of a case to Business Court shall first be heard by Judge Brian Sullivan or his alternate. A party may request that the Chief Judge review Judge Sullivan or his alternate's ruling. Orders regarding the assignment of a case to the Business Court are not appealable to the Court of Appeals. MCL 600.8035(7).
3. For docket management efficiencies, the Business Court Judges will hear Business Court pre-trial conferences and settlement matters at the beginning of their dockets.
4. The Case Processing Department for the Third Judicial Circuit shall regularly review assignments to Business Court judges. If it is determined that it is necessary to equalize a Business Court docket, that docket shall be removed from the draw of Civil case types for a period not to exceed one month.

The Wayne County Clerk, the Third Circuit Court Case Processing Department, and the Third Circuit Court Information Technology Systems Bureau are directed to take the steps necessary to accomplish this Directive.



Hon. Timothy M. Kenny, Chief Judge
Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan

Dated: October 24, 2019