In the
Indiana Supreme Court

FILED
Feb 11 2016, 11:01 am
CLERK
of the supreme court, court of appeals and tax court

IN THE MATTER OF THE	)	
	)	
APPROVAL OF LOCAL RULES	)	Case No. 82S00-1602-MS-80
	)	
FOR VANDERBURGH COUNTY	)	

ORDER APPROVING AMENDED LOCAL RULE

The judges of the Vanderburgh Circuit and Superior Courts request the approval of an amended local rule for special judge selection in accordance with Indiana Trial Rule 79 and Indiana Criminal Rule 13. Attached to this Order is the proposed amended local rule.

Upon examination of the proposed rule amendment requested by the Vanderburgh Circuit and Superior Courts, this Court finds that the proposed rule amendment, LR82-TR79-1.07, complies with the requirements of Indiana Trial Rule 79 and Indiana Criminal Rule 13, and accordingly, should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by this Court that Vanderburgh Circuit and Superior Court Local Rule, LR82-TR79-1.07, set forth as an attachment to this Order, is approved effective upon the date of this Order.

DONE at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 2/11/2016.

Loretta H. Rush
Chief Justice of Indiana

Vanderburgh County

LR82-TR79-1.07 Special Judge Selection in Civil and Criminal Cases

In the event a special judge is required under Trial Rule 79(H) in civil cases or under Criminal Rule 13 in criminal cases, the procedures set forth in the District 26 Rule on Special Judge Selection, as set forth below, shall be followed.

District 26 Rule on Special Judge Selection
TR 79(H), CR 13

In any District 26 circuit or superior court: 1) upon entry of an order granting a change of judge or entry of an order of recusal or disqualification in all civil or juvenile proceedings, if the parties shall fail to timely file an agreement in writing to an eligible special judge, or the judge so selected by the parties declines acceptance of the appointment as special judge (all as provided by TR 79 (D)); or 2) upon entry of an order granting a change of judge or entry of an order of recusal or disqualification in all criminal cases (see CR 12, 13); in all such cases (civil, juvenile and criminal) the appointment of an eligible special judge shall be made pursuant to this District 26 Rule:

1. The case shall be randomly assigned to one of the other judges or full-time judicial officers in the county of origin by the same process in which the case was initially assigned. This process shall be continued until qualification of a special judge or until each judge or full-time judicial officer in the county in which the case originated has been disqualified or been excused from service by the Indiana Supreme Court. If all judges or full-time judicial officers in the county in which the case originated shall disqualify or be excused from service by the Indiana Supreme Court, the judge exercising jurisdiction pending selection of a special judge shall refer the case to the Administrator of the Vanderburgh Superior Court ("Administrator") for assignment of a special judge. The Administrator shall assign a civil case to a judge or full- time judicial officer eligible for such service pursuant to TR 79(J) and serving in a District 26 court outside the county in which the case originated, or are from a contiguous county outside District 26 and have agreed to serve as special judge in the court where the case is pending. The Administrator shall assign a criminal case to a judge or full-time judicial officer from contiguous counties and counties within District 26. The assignment shall be made as set forth in paragraph 2.

2. The Administrator shall maintain a current list of District 26 judges and full-time judicial officers eligible pursuant to TR 79(J) for appointment as special judge in civil cases, and a current list of judges and full-time judicial officers from contiguous counties and counties within District 26 for appointment as special judge in criminal cases ("Civil and Criminal Cases Special Judge Lists"). Upon referral of a case for assignment of a special judge, the Administrator shall immediately assign a judge or full-time judicial officer from either the civil or criminal Special Judge List seriatim and notify the court where the case is pending of the assignment.

   The judicial officer exercising jurisdiction shall enter an order of appointment and notify the judicial officer so selected of the order of appointment. As required by TR 79 (H) or CR 13, the judicial officer appointed to serve under this paragraph 2 must accept jurisdiction in the case unless the appointed special judge is disqualified pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, ineligible for service under TR 79 or CR 13, or excused from service by the Indiana Supreme Court. If the appointed judicial officer is disqualified, ineligible, or excused from service, the Administrator shall again assign from the Special Judge List seriatim. This process shall continue until jurisdiction vests in a special judge so selected. If no judicial officer in District 26 shall qualify, the case shall be referred to the Indiana Supreme Court for appointment of a special judge.
3. As provided by TR 79(H) or CR 13, the order of appointment made pursuant to this District 26 rule by the court in which the case is pending shall constitute acceptance. An oath or additional evidence of acceptance of jurisdiction is not required.
4. Any judicial officer assigned by the Administrator as special judge who is disqualified pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, ineligible for service under TR 79(J), or excused from service by the Indiana Supreme Court, shall remain on the list in the same numeric place from which assigned. The first such judicial officer assigned who does not serve shall accordingly be the first assigned to the next case referred to the Administrator for assignment of a special judge. Unless unavoidable, all District 26 judges and full-time judicial officers eligible for service as a special judge pursuant to TR 79(J) shall serve as a special judge before the Administrator may twice assign the same person from the Special Judge List as a special judge.