

GOVERNANCE PLAN
DISTRICT 7

1. **Special Judge Plans:** District 7 is made up exclusively of the Allen Circuit Court and the Allen Superior Court, which is further made up of Civil, Criminal and Family Relations Divisions. The Allen County special judge plan (civil) is codified in Local Rules of the Allen Superior and Circuit Court: **Rule LR02-TR79-23 Selection of a Special Judge Pursuant to TR 79(H)**, as amended from time to time.
2. **Criminal Rule 2.2:** In District 7, criminal cases are assigned and special judges selected according to local rule: **Rule LR02-CR2.2-1 Assignment of Criminal Cases**, as amended from time to time.
3. **Leadership:** District 7 has 2 representatives to the Indiana Judicial Conference (IJC) Board of Directors, who serve two-year terms. Those representatives shall each have one vote on the IJC Board.

Leadership within the District shall be by “committee of the whole”, the ten (10) judges of the District. The “committee of the whole” shall be co-chaired by the two (2) District 7 representatives.

The Court Executive of the Allen Superior Court shall serve as the recording secretary for the District 7 “committee of the whole”.

4. **Selection Process for Leadership:** Commencing on January 1, 2013, one of the two of the District 7 representatives to the Indiana Judicial Conference Board of Directors shall initially be the Judge of the Allen Circuit Court. Thereafter, said District 7 representative shall be a judge of the Allen Superior Court determined on a rotating basis by seniority on the bench with the provision that every fifth term shall be filled by the Judge of the Allen Circuit Court.

Commencing on January 1, 2014, one of the two of the District 7 representatives to the Indiana Judicial Conference Board of Directors shall be the Chief Judge of the Allen Superior Court. Selection of the Chief Judge of the Allen Superior is governed by IC 33-33-2-30(a), as amended from time to time.

5. **Number of meetings:** This District will hold at least one meeting per quarter. It will be organized by the representatives to the Board of the Indiana Judicial Conference elected as above noted or at the request of any judge of the district. A majority of the judges in the District will constitute a quorum to conduct business. Proxy votes at the District meeting will not be honored unless unanimously approved by all judicial officers of the District prior to a given meeting. Meetings will be conducted in person.

In the event that a meeting of the IJC Board of Directors, a committee, and/or a sub-committee occurred since the last District 7 meeting, the District 7 representatives shall jointly or individually provide the agenda and minutes of said meeting(s) to the Court Executive of the Allen Superior

Court (Recording Secretary) who shall distribute same to the “committee of the whole” prior to or at the next District 7 meeting.

If no minutes have been prepared for a committee, and/or a sub-committee meeting on which the District 7 Representative serves, then the Representative shall prepare a written summary in lieu thereof and submit same to the Court Executive of the Allen Superior Court (Recording Secretary) for distribution to the “committee of the whole” prior to or at the next District 7 meeting.

6. District Activities: Judges of the District have many cooperative projects including but not limited to:

- a) Problem solving courts including Drug Court, ReEntry Court, Restoration (certified mental health) Court, HOPE probation and the Indiana Foreclosure Prevention Project.
- b) Our District shares judicial resources whenever possible, including courtroom space, personnel, etc.
- c) Allen County Adult Probation Department serves the Circuit and Superior Courts and is administered by the Allen Circuit Court.
- d) Allen County Community Corrections serves the criminal jurisdictions of the Allen Superior Court and the Allen Circuit Court. Judges of both courts serve on the Community Corrections Advisory Board.

7. Local Rules: Local rules of Allen Circuit and Superior Courts represent the rules of District 7.

8. Compliance: Our District Plan complies with the minimum requirements for District governance contemplated by AR 3(B). A 75% majority of the judges in the District agreed to this plan. It will remain in effect until further notice.

Approved:

Thomas J. Felts, Judge Date
Allen Circuit Court

David J. Avery, Chief Judge Date
Allen Superior Court

Nancy E. Boyer, Judge Date
Allen Superior Court

Wendy W. Davis, Judge Date
Allen Superior Court

Fran C. Gull, Judge Date
Allen Superior Court

Daniel G. Heath, Judge Date
Allen Superior Court

Stanley A. Levine, Judge Date
Allen Superior Court

Charles F. Pratt, Judge Date
Allen Superior Court

Stephen M. Sims, Judge Date
Allen Superior Court

John F. Surbeck, Judge Date
Allen Superior Court