

Indiana Judicial District 1
Governance Plan
Adopted 08/01/2019

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1. Special Judge Plan

As Judicial District 1 contains only the County of Lake, Special Judge Plans for the district are addressed in **L.R. 45-T.R.79-15. Appointment of Special Judge.**

2. Criminal Rule 2.2 Plan

As Judicial District 1 contains only the County of Lake, the Criminal Rule 2.2 Plan for the district is addressed in **L.R. 45-C.R. 2.2-1 Assignment of Criminal and Quasi Criminal Cases in all City, Town, County and Criminal Division Courts in Lake County.**

3. District Leadership

The leadership within Indiana Judicial District 1 will follow the governance provided for in **IC 33-33-45** establishing the Superior Court of Lake County and the Local Rules promulgated by the Lake Superior Court.

The Chief Judge, as provided in **IC 33-33-45-19(a)**, will be responsible for the efficient operation and conduct of the court and shall have the authority set forth in **IC 33-33-45**. Senior Judges of the Civil, Criminal and County Divisions of the Court shall be selected as provided in **IC 33-33-45-19(b)** and report to the Chief Judge as required by **IC 33-33-45-19(c)** as to how each Division should best judicially operate.

The 3 members representing Indiana Judicial District 1 on the Indiana Judicial Conference Board shall maintain their voting rights on said Board.

4. Selection Process for District Leadership

By Local Rule, the leadership of Indiana Judicial District 1 will be selected bi-annually.

All sitting judges are eligible to be nominated for the position of Chief Judge and a majority vote of the Judges within Indiana Judicial District 1 will determine the outcome.

The judges of each division of the court, in accordance with the rules adopted by the judges of that division, shall designate a judge as the senior judge of that division and fix the time that the senior judge serves. In the event of a tie vote for Senior Judge in any Division, the deciding vote shall be that of the Chief Judge. Term limits are not placed on the Chief Judge/ District Administrative Judge or Senior Judges.

The current District Administrative Judge and Chief Judge of the Lake Superior Court is Judge John M. Sedia.

Divisional Senior Judges are and will continue to be selected by the judges within the Civil, County, Criminal and Juvenile Divisions. The current Senior Judges are Judge Bruce D. Parent, Civil Division, Judge Clarence D. Murray, Criminal Division, Judge Thomas P. Stefaniak, Jr. , Juvenile Division and Judge Julie N. Cantrell, County Division.

5. Number of Meetings per Year

The Indiana Judicial District 1 shall conduct an annual District meeting. Additional meetings may be scheduled by the Chief Judge/District Administrative Judge. A quorum of judges is necessary for the conduct of any District business. A quorum consists of a simple majority. Proxy votes are allowed if provided in writing to the District Administrative Judge prior to the meeting's commencement.

6. District Activities:

The Chief Judge and Senior Judges of Indiana Judicial District 1 will continue to work together, pool resources whenever possible and generally strive for the continued betterment of the District.

7. Local Rules:

The Local Rules for Indiana Judicial District 1 are the rules promulgated by the Lake Superior Court and approved by the Indiana Supreme Court.

8. Compliance

In accordance with Administrative Rule 3(B), and in following the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Directors of the Judicial Conference of Indiana, the District 1 Governance Plan has been prepared and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Judges of the Indiana Judicial District 1 at the District Meeting held June 19, 2019.

This plan will remain in effect until further notice.