

In the
Indiana Supreme Court

In the Matter of the Approval of Local
Rules for Howard County

Supreme Court Case No.
18S-MS-164



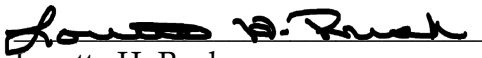
Order Approving Amended Local Rule

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

Upon examination of the proposed rule amendment requested by the Howard Circuit and Superior Courts, this Court finds that the proposed rule amendment, LR34-TR79-8, complies with the requirements of Indiana Trial Rule 79, and accordingly, should be approved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by this Court that Howard Circuit and Superior Court Local Rule, LR34-TR79-8, set forth as an attachment to this Order, is approved effective January 1, 2019.

DONE at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 11/20/2018.


Loretta H. Rush
Chief Justice of Indiana

LR 34-TR79-8 CHANGE OF JUDGE

Purpose of Rule

This rule is adopted to comply with the requirements of Trial Rule 79(H) of the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure. It is intended to provide a means of selection of special judges ensuring the effective use of all judicial resources within Administrative District 8 (which is comprised of Cass County, Fulton County, Howard County, and Miami County) and includes each person eligible for appointment under Section (J) of Trial Rule 79.

Central Office Established

There is established a Central Office for the keeping of records of appointment and selection of special judges for this District. The Central Office of this District shall be the Howard Circuit Court.

The Courts of this County shall hereafter refer to the Central Office of this District whenever selection of a special judge is required under this rule. Each of the Courts of this County shall accept from the Central Administrator the name of the individual to then be appointed as special judge for a given case.

The person serving as the Central Administrator shall have the following responsibilities:

1. To maintain a list of persons qualified to serve as special judge under Section (J) of Trial Rule 79.
2. To take referrals from the several courts of this District, requesting appointment of a special judge.
3. To alternately and on a rotating basis appoint qualified judges from the list maintained for that purpose.
4. To notify the referring court of the individual to be appointed under this rule.

Current Rotation Schedule

The following shall be the rotation schedule used by the Central Administrator:

1. The Judge of the Cass Superior Court I
2. The Judge of the Howard Superior Court III
3. The Judge of the Fulton Superior Court
4. The Judge of the Howard Superior Court II
5. The Judge of the Fulton Circuit Court
6. The Judge of the Howard Circuit Court
7. The Judge of the Miami Superior Court I
8. The Judge of the Howard Superior Court I
9. The Judge of the Cass Circuit Court
10. The Judge of the Miami Circuit Court
11. The Judge of the Cass Superior Court II
12. The Judge of the Howard Superior Court IV
13. The Judge of the Miami Superior Court II

Administrative Fee

Each of the Courts participating under this rule shall pay each year the sum of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) to the Central Administrator, payable directly to the Administrator by the 15th day of September of each year.

Certification to the Supreme Court

In cases in which no judge is eligible to serve as special judge in a particular case or where the circumstances of a case require it, the Court shall certify those circumstances to the Supreme Court and that Court shall make the appointment.

Credit for Voluntary Acceptance of Certain Special Judge Cases

If, outside the normal rotation schedule, a judge voluntarily accepts a Cass County, Fulton County, Howard County, or Miami County civil case at the request of the parties to the case or at the request of the Court in which the case is pending, that judge may then receive credit for taking that case, with the Central Administrator skipping over that judge the next time that judge's name comes up for appointment for a case under the above-described rotation schedule. In order to receive such credit, the judge shall notify the Central Administrator of his or her voluntary acceptance of such a civil case no later than seven (7) days after his or her formal qualification and assumption of jurisdiction in that case. At the time that such notification is provided to the Central Administrator, the notifying judge shall also provide the Central Administrator the cause number of the civil case that he or she has voluntarily accepted.

(Effective January 1, 2019)