

Proposed District Governance Rule for District 26

1. **Special Judge Plans:** Our District has reviewed the TR 79 plans in each county and have determined each plan is current and allows for the efficient operation of special judge assignments in the District. Our District will use judges within the District or, as allowed by TR 79(H), drawn from counties that are contiguous to the county seeking a special judge.
2. **Criminal Rule 2.2:** Our District has reviewed the current Criminal Rule 2.2 Plans for the counties in our District. We have determined that the counties in our District currently follow the provisions of Criminal Rules 2.2, 12, and 13.
3. **Leadership:** From among the alternatives suggested to comply with AR 3(B), our District reviewed the suggested choices: (1) District Judge; (2) Executive Administrative Committee; and (3) other specified method. We have chosen the District Judge model.

The District Judge shall be responsible to oversee compliance with the District Governance Plan. The judges of this District have reviewed the current Weighted Caseload Reports and have unanimously determined that no adjustments to the current assignment of cases within the District is needed. Hereafter, the District Judge shall be responsible for reviewing said case load reports to assure the efficient operation of the District. Should the District Judge determine some action is necessary to adjust the assignment of cases within the District, he shall call a meeting of all the judges in the District to address the issue, which shall be determined by a majority of votes of all the judges in the District. There shall also be elected an Assistant District Judge who shall serve in the absence or unavailability of the District Judge for any reason.

For each two year term the District Judge shall be from Vanderburgh County and the Assistant District Judge shall be from one of the remaining counties in the District or vice versa. The positions of District Judge and Assistant District Judge shall always be divided as set out herein.

Initially, the District Judge may come from either Vanderburgh County or the remaining counties so long as the Assistant District Judge comes from the other group of judges.

The judges selected as the District Judge and the Assistant District Judge shall also be the District representative to the Board of Directors of the Indiana Judicial Conference and have the authority to cast the votes allocated to the District.

4. **Selection Process for Leadership:** The term for the District Judge shall be two years. The current Board representatives will solicit nominees from among the trial judges to be the District Judge. Thereafter, the District Judge will conduct future selection processes. Nominees can self-nominate or be nominated by another judge. The selection will be conducted as follows: The judges of the District shall elect the District Judge and Assistant District Judge at the first Rule 3(B) District meeting to be held in August of 2012. The current Board representatives will forward the results and required documents to IJC.

5. **Number of meetings:** The District will hold one meeting per year and it will be organized by the District Judge. A majority of the judges in the District will constitute a quorum to conduct business. Proxy votes at the District meeting will follow the same procedure as used for proxy votes on the Board. Meetings will be conducted in person or electronically, or via conference call as determined by the needs of the District. The yearly meeting shall be in March at a time and place to be determined by the District Judge.

6. **District Activities:**
 - a) Our District is cooperating on TR 79 and CR 2.2 Plans. We have also had joint CLE programs on the subject of Evidence Based Sentencing.
 - b) Our District will investigate sharing of judicial resources when more resources become available.
 - c) Joint volunteer lawyers program.

7. **Local Rules:** Other than this plan the District does not have any District rules.