UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

IN RE: UTILIZATION OF UNITED)
STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGES)

GENERAL ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT at the time a case is filed, a United States District Judge shall be assigned to the case in the manner prescribed by Local Rule 40.1 and the Order(s) governing the assignment of cases.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT at the time a case is assigned to a United States District Judge, it shall also be assigned to a United States Magistrate Judge then resident in the Division in which the case is filed. In any Division in which more than one United States Magistrate Judge is resident, the Clerk of the Court shall assign cases to the Magistrate Judges on a random and equal basis.

For any time period during which a Division has no active United States Magistrate Judge resident, this Order shall not apply. Every case filed in a Division having no active United States Magistrate Judge shall be assigned to the active United States Magistrate Judges in the District in a manner prescribed by the Chief Judge at that time.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT all non-dispositive pretrial matters and motions in a case, other than as excepted by Local Rule 72.1(d), shall be hereafter automatically referred to the United States Magistrate Judge assigned to the case. The United States Magistrate Judge shall promptly hear and determine such matters and

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motions as prescribed by Local Rule 72.1(c).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT for every civil case filed the Clerk shall notify the parties of the option to consent to jurisdiction by a United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to Local Rule 72.1(h), and, with that notification, provide a blank consent form. Any party who wishes to consent to jurisdiction by a United States Magistrate Judge shall sign the form and file it with the Clerk as soon as practicable but in any event within twenty (20) days of the date of the Notice of Preliminary Pretrial Conference. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as a limitation of the assigned district judge to refer, in his or her discretion, the case to a magistrate judge upon consent of all parties even though untimely filed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT at the time all parties to any civil case consent to the exercise of jurisdiction by a United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to Local Rule 72.1(h), the Clerk shall automatically refer the case to the United States Magistrate Judge resident in the Division in which the case pends, and that Magistrate Judge shall then conduct all proceedings including the conduct of a jury or non-jury trial, and may order the entry of a final judgment. In any Division in which more than one United States Magistrate Judge is resident, cases shall be referred to the Magistrate Judges on a random and equal basis. Once all parties to a case consent to the jurisdiction of a United States Magistrate Judge, the United States District Judge previously assigned to the action shall exercise no further jurisdiction over the case unless it becomes no longer fully consented because of the addition of a party who fails to

consent. The Chief Judge may, for good cause shown on his own motion, or under extraordinary circumstances shown by any party, vacate a reference of a civil case to a Magistrate Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT in any Division with more than one United States Magistrate Judge resident, all tasks performed by magistrate judges consistent with their assigned duties in Local Rule 72.1 shall be assigned on a random and equal basis.

SO ORDERED this 30th day of JUNE, 2003.

/s/ Robert L. Miller, Jr.
Robert L. Miller, Jr., Chief Judge

/s/ Rudy Lozano
Rudy Lozano, Judge

Allen Sharp, Judge

/s/ Philip P. Simon
Philip P. Simon, Judge

/s/ William C. Lee
William C. Lee, Judge

/s/ Theresa L. Springmann
Theresa L. Springmann, Judge

/s/ James T. Moody
James T. Moody, Judge