

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	iii
LR 1.1 Scope, Purpose and Construction	1
LR 1.2 Definitions	1
LR 3.1 Jury Divisions	1
LR 3.2 Assignment of Actions to Jury Division.....	2
LR 4.1 Service of Process Through the Secretary of State.....	3
LR 4.2 Service of Summons by United States Marshal	3
LR 4.3 Preparation of Process	4
LR 5.1 Place of Filing Pleadings, Written Motions, and Other Papers	4
LR 5.2 Format of Pleadings, Written Motions, and Other Papers	4
LR 5.3 Pro Se Actions	5
LR 5.4 Petitions or Complaints in Forma Pauperis	5
LR 5.5 Electronic Filing	6
LR 5.6 Filing Documents Under Seal.....	6
LR 5.7 Service Date for Electronic Notice of Entry of Court Judgments and Orders	6
LR 6.1 “Last Day” defined	7
LR 6.2 Computation of Time – Date Certain.....	7
LR 7.1 Motions	7
LR 8.1 Residence Required to be Stated in Complaint or Other Initial Pleading	8
LR 16.1 Exemptions from Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16	8
LR 16.2 Alternative Dispute Resolution.....	8
LR 26.1 Discovery Responses.	9
LR 37.1 Motions Relating to Discovery	9
LR 40.1 Assignment of Cases Among Judges and Calendaring.....	9
LR 41.1 Dismissal for Failure to Prosecute	10
LR 45.1 Service of Subpoenas by United States Marshal	10
LR 47.1 Trial Jurors	10
LR 54.1 Notice of Settlements.....	10
LR 54.3 Time for Filing Bill of Costs.....	10
LR 54.4 Time for Filing Motion for Attorneys Fees and Nontaxable Expenses	10
LR 65.1.1 Bond and Surety Requirements	11
LR 72.1 Duties of United States Magistrate Judges	12
LR 72.2 Objections To Non-Dispositive Ruling of Magistrate Judge.....	12
LR 73.1 Consent to Judgment by a Magistrate Judge.....	12
LR 79.1 Original Pleadings.....	12
LR 81.1 Removal Procedures	12
LR 83.1 Attorney Admission to Practice	13
LR 83.2 Permission to Practice in a Particular Case.....	13
LR 83.3 Attorney Discipline.....	14
LR 83.4 Local Counsel	15
LR 83.5 Appearance of Counsel	15
LR 83.6 Substitution or Withdrawal of Attorney of Record.....	16
LR 83.8 Writs of Habeas Corpus Ad Testificandum	16
LR 83.9 Courtroom Decorum	16

LR 83.10	Exhibits	17
LR 83.11	Social Security Cases	17
LR 83.12	Bankruptcy Matters	18
LR 83.13	Advance Payment of Fees	19
LR 83.14	Modification or Amendment of Local Rules	19
LR 85.1	Citation	20
LR 86.1	Effective Date	20

INTRODUCTION

It has long been the intent of the federal judges in Kentucky to make the practice of law in the federal courts as simple and understandable as possible for the Kentucky federal practitioner. While no federal statute mandates uniformity, the United States District Courts for the Eastern District and Western District of Kentucky promulgated Joint Local Rules in 1986. The 2023 revisions of the Joint Rules reflect the Joint Local Rule Commission's desire to ensure continuing continuity, clarity, and modernity in these Joint Rules.

The members of the Joint Local Rules Commission who participated in the revision and editing process are as follows:

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Honorable Danny C. Reeves, Chief Judge, Eastern District of Kentucky
Honorable David J. Hale, Judge, Western District of Kentucky
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The Judges of the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky are grateful to the many lawyers who have worked on the Joint Local Rules Commission and for their ongoing efforts in the review of the Local Rules of Court. The invaluable contribution of these lawyers has made for the success of the Joint Local Rules Project between the Eastern and Western Districts.

Comments and suggestions for the improvements of the Local Rules should be directed to a Clerk of Court for the attention of the Joint Local Rules Commission.

JOINT LOCAL RULES OF CIVIL PRACTICE

LR 1.1 **Scope, Purpose and Construction**

These Joint Local Rules of Civil Practice for the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky provide standardized procedures for the convenience of the bench and bar. These rules must be construed to be consistent with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and to secure the just, efficient and economical determination of civil actions. These rules do not eliminate the statutory distinction between the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky.

LR 1.2 **Definitions**

References to “Court” or the “Clerk” mean the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky -- or the Clerk of that Court -- or the United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky -- or the Clerk of that Court. A “party” or “you” refers to either the party or the attorney.

LR 3.1 **Jury Divisions**

(a) **United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky.** The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky is divided into the following jury divisions with juries drawn from the counties within each docket:

- (1) **Northern.** The Northern Division is divided into two dockets.
 - (A) **Ashland.** The following counties are in the Ashland Docket: Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Morgan, and Rowan.
 - (B) **Covington.** The following counties are in the Covington Docket: Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Mason, Pendleton, and Robertson.
- (2) **Central.** The Central Division is divided into two dockets;
 - (A) **Frankfort.** The following counties are in the Frankfort Docket: Anderson, Carroll, Franklin, Henry, Owen, Shelby, and Trimble.
 - (B) **Lexington.** The following counties are in the Lexington Docket: Bath, Bourbon, Boyle, Breathitt, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Fleming, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Menifee, Mercer, Montgomery, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, Wolfe, and Woodford.
- (3) **Southern.** The Southern Division is divided into two dockets:
 - (A) **London.** The following counties are in the London Docket: Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Leslie, McCreary, Owsley, Perry, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Wayne, and Whitley.
 - (B) **Pikeville.** The following counties are in the Pikeville Docket: Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike.

- (b) **United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky.** The United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky is divided into the following jury divisions:
- (1) **Louisville.** The following counties are in the Louisville Division: Breckinridge, Bullitt, Hardin, Jefferson, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Spencer, and Washington.
 - (2) **Bowling Green.** The following counties are in the Bowling Green Division: Adair, Allen, Barren, Butler, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Edmonson, Green, Hart, Logan, Metcalf, Monroe, Russell, Simpson, Taylor, Todd, and Warren.
 - (3) **Owensboro.** The following counties are in the Owensboro Division: Daviess, Grayson, Hancock, Henderson, Hopkins, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Union, and Webster.
 - (4) **Paducah.** The following counties are in the Paducah Division: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Lyon, McCracken, Marshall, and Trigg.
- (c) **Assignment to a Division.** Jury division assignments may be changed by rule or by Court order.

LR 3.2

Assignment of Actions to Jury Division

- (a) **Generally.** A civil action may be filed in any division courthouse. Civil actions are assigned to particular jury divisions as follows. In the event of improper assignment, the case will be transferred to the correct jury division. The validity of the filing is not affected by the Clerk's improper assignment.
- (1) **Defendants in Same Division.** If all defendants reside in the same jury division, the case is assigned to the jury division where all defendants reside.
 - (2) **Defendants in Different Divisions.** If at least one defendant resides in the district but the defendants do not all reside in the same jury division, the case is assigned as follows:
 - (A) To the jury division in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or in which a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated; or
 - (B) If no jury division satisfies (A), to the jury division in which the first named resident defendant resides.
 - (3) **Non-Resident Defendants.** If none of the defendants reside in the district, the case is assigned as follows:
 - (A) To the jury division in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or in which a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated; or

- (B) If no jury division satisfies (A), to the jury division in which the first named plaintiff resides.
- (b) **Removal Cases and 28 U.S.C. § 2254 Petitions.** A removal or state habeas corpus petition shall be assigned to the jury division that includes the court from which the removal is had or in which the challenged judgment, conviction or order was rendered.
 - (c) **Assignment of 28 U.S.C. § 2255 Motions.** A motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 should be assigned to the jury division in which the movant was originally tried or sentenced such that the motion is heard, if possible, by the same judge who presided over the part of the proceedings under attack.
 - (d) **Venue for Corporations.** A corporation is a resident of the county in which it has its principal place of business within the district. If a corporation does business throughout the district and has no operation which is its principal place of business, or if a non-resident corporation does not maintain a place of business within the district, the action is assigned to the jury division in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated.
 - (e) **Governmental Venue.** For purposes of this rule, the United States, federal agencies, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and agencies of the Commonwealth are deemed non-residents of the District. State or federal officials joined solely in their official capacities are deemed residents of the division in which they perform their official duties.
 - (f) **Transfer.** Any civil action or proceeding may, in the discretion of the Court, be transferred from the jury division in which it is pending to any other division for the convenience of the Court, parties, witnesses, or in the interest of justice.

LR 4.1 Service of Process Through the Secretary of State

In addition to the filing procedures and fees of this Court, whenever a party intends to serve process through the Kentucky Secretary of State, the party initiating such service must also follow the filing procedures of the Kentucky Secretary of State.

LR 4.2 Service of Summons by United States Marshal

- (a) **Generally.** If service of a summons by the United States Marshal is permitted, a party must present the following to the U.S. Marshal at least thirty (30) days before the compliance date specified in the summons:
 - (1) a properly completed summons; and
 - (2) a properly completed U.S. Marshal Form 285.
- (b) **Service upon a Party in Custody.** If the party to be served is in state or federal custody, properly completed process must be presented to the U.S. Marshal at least thirty (30) working days before the compliance date specified in the summons.

LR 4.3

Preparation of Process

- (a) **Generally.** Subject to current availability, the Clerk will make available reasonable supplies of blank official process forms. Any attorney B or any party proceeding pro se B who requests the issuance of process must prepare and present to the Clerk for signature and sealing all necessary forms, including the following:
- (1) Summons;
 - (2) Warrants of Seizure and Monition;
 - (3) Summons to Alleged Bankrupts;
 - (4) Subpoenas to Witnesses;
 - (5) Certificates of Judgment;
 - (6) Writs of Execution;
 - (7) Orders of Sale;
 - (8) All Process in Garnishment or Other Aid in Execution;
 - (9) Civil Cover Sheet;
 - (10) U.S. Marshal's Form 285; and
 - (11) Notice of Stipulation to Magistrate Judge's Jurisdiction.
- (b) **Time for Completion.** The Clerk must accept for filing any pleading or document tendered even if it is not accompanied by the appropriate forms. If the pleading is not accompanied by the appropriate forms, the attorney or party filing the pleading must comply with this rule within seven (7) working days of filing the pleading. If counsel or the party fails to comply with this order within seven (7) working days of filing the pleading, the Court will issue an order requiring the party to show cause why the pleading should not be stricken.

LR 5.1

Place of Filing Pleadings, Written Motions, and Other Papers

Pleadings, written motions, and other papers not filed electronically may be filed in any of the divisional offices of the Clerk for the district in which the action is filed or pending.

LR 5.2

Format of Pleadings, Written Motions, and Other Papers

All pleadings, written motions, and other papers filed with the Court must be in size 8½ x 11 inch page format with margins of at least one inch on all sides, with text double spaced (except for appropriate block quotes, headings, and footnotes), in at least 12-point proportionately-spaced font.

LR 5.3

Pro Se Actions

- (a) **Generally.** The following papers should be written on court-supplied forms, signed and verified:
- (1) Pro se writ of habeas corpus filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2254; and
 - (2) Pro se motions attacking a conviction or sentence filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.
 - (3) Pro se civil rights complaints filed under 42 U.S.C. § 1983; and
 - (4) Pro se civil rights complaints filed under the authority of Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Agents, 403 U.S. 388 (1971).

- (b) **Papers Not on Court-Supplied Forms.** If a pro se litigant submits a paper identified in (a) above that is not on a court-supplied form, the Clerk will accept the paper for filing and forward it to an appropriate judicial officer for review. If directed by the appropriate judicial officer, the Clerk shall provide sufficient copies of the prescribed form, and instructions for preparing the form, to the pro se litigant along with directions to file the petition on the appropriate court-supplied form within thirty (30) days thereafter. When required to do so, a pro se litigant's failure to file his or her petition on a court-supplied form within thirty (30) days may be grounds for dismissal.
- (c) **Filing.** Pleadings, written motions, and other papers in pro se cases must be addressed to the Clerk. A pleading, motion, or other paper addressed to an individual judge will be directed to the Clerk for assignment.
- (d) **Disclosure of Contact Information; Sanctions.** All pro se non-prisoner litigants must include, if available, in the caption of the litigant's first filing, the litigant's current telephone number, e-mail address, residential address, and, if different, mailing address. All pro se prisoner litigants must include in every pleading, written motion, and other paper the prisoner's inmate number and current mailing address. Failure to provide the required information upon request may result in the dismissal of the litigant's case or other appropriate sanctions.
- (e) **Notification of Change in Address; Sanctions.** All pro se litigants must provide written notice of a change of residential address, and, if different, mailing address, to the Clerk and to the opposing party or the opposing party's counsel. Failure to notify the Clerk of an address change may result in the dismissal of the litigant's case or other appropriate sanctions.

LR 5.4

Petitions or Complaints In Forma Pauperis

- (a) **Prisoners**
 - (1) **Habeas Corpus Petitions.** A prisoner seeking leave to proceed in forma pauperis in a habeas corpus action must file a fully completed Application to Proceed Without Prepayment of Fees or a motion and affidavit that includes the same information. An application form may be obtained from the Clerk. No filing fee is required for motions filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.
 - (2) **Civil Rights Actions and All Other Civil Complaints.** Prisoners seeking leave to proceed without prepayment of the entire filing fee must comply with the requirements of the Prison Litigation Reform Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) (1996).
- (b) **Non-Prisoners.** A non-prisoner seeking leave to proceed in forma pauperis in a civil action must file a fully completed Application to Proceed Without Prepayment of Fees or a motion and affidavit that includes the same information. An application form may be obtained from the Clerk. The Court may order production of additional documents as necessary.

LR 5.5**Electronic Filing**

Users of the Court's electronic case filing system must comply with the Court's Electronic Case Filing Administrative Policies and Procedures, available from the Clerk's office on the following websites:

WDKY – "<http://www.kywd.uscourts.gov/>";
EDKY - "<http://www.kyed.uscourts.gov/>".

LR 5.6**Filing Documents Under Seal**

- (a) **Presumption of public access.** Parties and counsel should presume that all documents filed in district court should be available for the public to access and that restricting public access can occur only in limited circumstances, as set forth in this Rule.
- (b) **"Sealed Document" defined.** A "sealed document" is defined as a document or motion filed pursuant to (1) a protective order restricting public access. (2) an order granting leave to file the sealed document or motion, in conjunction with a motion for leave to seal or a previously-filed redacted document, or (3) included within a category of documents considered sealed under a federal statute or federal rule of procedure, local rule, or standing order of this court. A sealed document or motion is not available electronically, or by any other means, to the parties, attorneys or the public.
- (c) **Specific Authority or Motion Required; Protective Orders.** Absent a federal statute or federal rule of procedure, local rule, or standing order of this court, a party seeking to file a sealed document must electronically file a motion for leave to seal. The motion must state why sealing is required and must establish that the document sought to be filed under seal is entitled to protection from public disclosure. Reference to a stipulation that allows a party to designate certain documents as confidential is not sufficient grounds to establish that a document, or portions thereof warrants filing under seal.
- (d) **Electronic Filing Rules and Procedures.** All procedures for electronic filing of documents under seal, whether pursuant to this Rule or a federal statute or federal rule of procedure, are contained in the Court's Electronic Case Filing Administrative Policies and Procedures, available from the Clerk's office on the following websites:

WDKY - <http://www.kywd.uscourts.gov/>
EDKY - <http://www.kyed.uscourts.gov/>

LR 5.7**Service Date for Electronic Notice of Entry of Court Judgments and Orders**

When the Notice of Electronic Filing transmitted to a party contains a complete court order and states there is no document attached, notice of entry of the order shall be deemed served on the date and time stated on the Notice of Electronic Filing that is transmitted to the party served.

In all other cases, court judgments and orders shall be deemed served on the date and time stated on the Notice of Electronic Filing that is transmitted, with a hyperlink to the judgment or order, to the party served.

LR 6.1 “Last Day” Defined

For purposes of Federal Rule Civil Procedure 6(a)(4), unless a different time is set by a statute or court order, the “last day” ends for electronic filing at midnight, **EASTERN TIME**.

LR 6.2 Computation of Time – Date Certain

When any period of time set by Order of the Court or otherwise ends on a date certain and that date certain falls upon a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the period of time continues to run until the end of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

LR 7.1 Motions

- (a) **Generally.** A motion must state with particularity the grounds for the motion, the relief sought, and the legal argument necessary to support it.
- (b) **Motions for an Extension of Time.** Subject to any deadlines established by the Court, parties may extend time limits by agreed order. Absent an agreed order, the party seeking the extension must file a motion setting forth the reasons for the extension and whether other parties consent. A response opposing the motion must be filed within 7 days of service of the motion.
- (c) **Time for Filing Responses and Replies.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, a party opposing a motion must file a response within 21 days of service of the motion. Failure to timely respond to a motion may be grounds for granting the motion. A party may file a reply within 14 days of service of the response.
- (d) **Page Limitations.** Motions and responses may not exceed 25 pages without leave of Court. Replies may not exceed 15 pages without leave of Court.
- (e) **Proposed Order.** A party filing a motion must also file a separate proposed order. Any proposed order imposing sanctions must be provided separately from a proposed order pertaining to any other matter.
- (f) **Hearing or Oral Arguments on Motions.** A party may request a hearing or oral argument in a motion, response, or reply.
- (g) **Submission to the Court.** A motion is submitted to the Court for decision after completion of the hearing or oral argument – or if none – after the reply is filed, or the time for filing the response or reply has expired.
- (h) **Copies of Cited Authority.** If a motion, response, or reply contains a citation to any authority not available electronically, a copy of the authority must be attached.

LR 7.1.1 Disclosure Statement

- (a) **Additional Parties Who Must File Disclosure Statements.** In diversity actions, any party, intervenor, or proposed intervenor that is a limited

liability company (LLC), a limited liability partnership (LLP), a limited partnership (LP), or a partnership must, in the disclosure statement required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.1, list those states from which the owners/members/partners of the LLC, LLP, LP, or partnership are citizens. If any owner/member/partner of the LLC, LLP, LP, or partnership is another LLC, LLP, LP, or partnership, then the disclosure statement must also list those states from which the owners/members/partners of the LLC, LLP, LP, or partnership are citizens.

LR 8.1 Residence Required to be Stated in Complaint or Other Initial Pleading

A party commencing a civil action must include in the complaint or other initial pleading the following information:

- (a) the defendant's or defendants' county of residence;
- (b) the plaintiff's or plaintiffs' county of residence; or
- (c) if located in Kentucky, the jury division in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated.

LR 16.1 Exemptions from Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16. The following are exempt from the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b):

- (a) an action for review on an administrative record;
- (b) a petition for habeas corpus or other proceeding to challenge a criminal conviction or sentence;
- (c) an action brought without counsel by a person in custody of the United States, a state, or a state subdivision;
- (d) an action to enforce or quash an administrative summons or subpoena;
- (e) an action by the United States to recover benefit payments;
- (f) an action by the United States to collect on a student loan guaranteed by the United States;
- (g) a proceeding ancillary to proceedings in other courts; and
- (h) an action to enforce an arbitration award.

LR 16.2 Alternative Dispute Resolution. Upon motion of any party, or sua sponte, any judicial officer may require parties in civil cases to consider some form of alternative dispute resolution process ("ADR"), including but not limited to, mediation, early neutral evaluation, minitrial, or arbitration, as follows:

- (a) Mediation may be conducted under the auspices of a private professional mediator or a judicial officer.
- (b) All communications in ADR proceedings are confidential, they are not subject to discovery, and such communications may not be disclosed to anyone other than the parties and ADR participants.
- (c) Positions taken and statements or concessions made during the mediation process shall not be admissible as evidence during any court proceedings.
- (d) The mediator shall not be called or listed as a witness in, nor compelled to produce documents related to, any matter in which such mediator shall have served.

- (e) Each District Court may, by separate General Order, designate a person to implement, administer, oversee, and evaluate alternative dispute resolution in such District.

LR 26.1 Discovery Responses.

- (a) **Repetition of Request.** In responding to interrogatories, requests for production of documents or things or for entry upon land, and requests for admission, the responding party must repeat the question or request immediately before the answer or objection.
- (b) **Custodian of Discovery Documents.** The party responsible for service of a discovery document not filed of record pursuant to F.R.Civ.P. 5(d), including disclosures, notices, interrogatories, requests and answers or responses thereto, shall be the custodian and must retain the original document. The custodian must provide access to all parties of record during the pendency of the action.

LR 37.1 Motions Relating to Discovery

Prior to filing a discovery motion, all counsel must make a good faith effort to resolve extrajudicially any dispute relating to discovery. The Court will not entertain discovery motions unless counsel have conferred -- or attempted to confer -- with other affected parties in an effort to resolve their dispute. The moving party must attach to every discovery motion a certification that counsel have conferred and are unable to resolve their differences. The certification must detail counsel's attempts to resolve the dispute.

LR 40.1 Assignment of Cases Among Judges and Calendaring

- (a) **Assignment of Cases Among Judges.** Cases are assigned among the various judges within a district in a manner established by the Court's General Order. Unless otherwise ordered, cases are calendared for trial or other appropriate proceedings by the assigned judge.
- (b) **Reassignment of Cases; Motion to Reassign Related Cases.** A case may be reassigned to another judge within the district upon the Court's own motion, in the interests of justice, for reasons stated in an order of reassignment. A party may file a motion to reassign a case if it is related to another case pending in the district. Cases may be considered related if they meet the requirements of F.R.Civ.P.42(a), or if a substantial savings of judicial time and resources would result if they were handled by the same judge. The Court will determine a motion to reassign on the basis of whether reassignment is in the interests of justice.
- (c) **Judge Not Available.** If it appears that any matter demands immediate attention and the judge to whom the case has been assigned is not or will not be available, the Clerk -- upon request -- must determine if another judge is available who will consent to hear the matter.

LR 41.1 Dismissal for Failure to Prosecute

If no action has been taken on a case for nine months, the Court may issue an order requiring the plaintiff to show cause why the case should not be dismissed for lack of prosecution.

LR 45.1 Service of Subpoenas by United States Marshal

If service of a subpoena by the United States Marshal is permitted, a party must present the following to the U.S. Marshal Service at least fourteen (14) days before the compliance date specified in the subpoena:

- (1) a properly completed subpoena;
- (2) a properly completed U.S. Marshal Form 285; and
- (3) attendance fees and mileage to be tendered to the person to whom the subpoena is directed.

LR 47.1 Trial Jurors

- (a) **Contact with Jurors.** Unless permitted by the Court, no person, party or attorney, nor representative of a party or attorney, may contact, interview, or communicate with any juror before, during, or after the trial.
- (b) **Peremptory Jury Challenges.** Unless the Court orders otherwise, the parties must exercise their peremptory challenges simultaneously.
- (c) **Attorneys Not to Request any Person's Excuse from Jury Service.** No attorney -- or an employee of an attorney or law firm -- may request a judge to excuse any person lawfully summoned for jury service.

LR 54.1 Notice of Settlements

If parties settle a civil action, counsel must promptly notify the Clerk. Failure to give prompt notice may be grounds for assessing any jury costs against one or more of the parties or their counsel.

LR 54.3 Time for Filing Bill of Costs

The prevailing party must file a Bill of Costs with the Clerk and serve a copy of the Bill on each adverse party within thirty (30) days of entry of judgment. If the Bill of Costs is not filed within thirty (30) days, costs, other than those of the Clerk, taxable pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1920, shall be waived. The Court may, on motion filed within the time for the filing of the Bill of Costs, extend the time for filing.

LR 54.4 Time for Filing Motion for Attorney's Fees and Nontaxable Expenses

Unless otherwise provided by statute, a motion for attorney's fees and related nontaxable litigation expenses, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(d)(2), must be filed no later than 30 days after entry of judgment. If a motion for attorney's fees or nontaxable expenses is not filed within 30 days, such fees and nontaxable expenses shall be waived. The Court may, on motion filed within the time provided for filing a motion for attorney's fees or nontaxable expenses, extend the time for filing such a motion.

LR 65.1.1 Bond and Surety Requirements

- (a) **General Requirements.** In all civil and bankruptcy actions, the Clerk may -- unless the Court orders otherwise -- accept only the following as surety on a bond:
- (1) a surety company approved by the United States Department of Treasury;
 - (2) cash in an amount set by the Court; or
 - (3) a personal surety secured by real estate that complies with subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) below.
- (b) **Powers of Attorney.** A Treasury Department approved surety company may designate an agent in Kentucky to execute bonds. If so, the power of attorney designating the agent may be filed with the Clerk in the jury division in which the action is pending. In lieu of filing the power of attorney with the Clerk, a copy of the power of attorney must be appended to each bond executed.
- (c) **Unacceptable Personal Sureties.** The Clerk must not accept the following as a personal surety on any bond:
- (1) an attorney;
 - (2) a Court officer or employee; or
 - (3) the United States Marshal or any deputy marshal.
- (d) **Personal Surety Secured by Real Estate; Generally.** The Clerk must accept a personal surety secured by real estate under the following conditions:
- (1) The real estate is located in Kentucky;
 - (2) The real estate has an unencumbered value of at least 110% of the bond amount;
 - (3) The real estate is not owned by a corporation or partnership; and
 - (4) If the property is held jointly, all joint tenants have executed the bond.
- (e) **Procedure for Posting Real Estate Bond.** To post a real estate bond, the sureties must execute an affidavit providing the following information:
- (1) the owners' names and addresses;
 - (2) an affiant's statement as to the assessed value from the Property Valuation Administrator's Office or, if that is not available, an appraisal by a licensed appraiser; and
 - (3) a listing of all liens and mortgages on the property, including all but the current year's real estate taxes.
- (f) **Affidavit on Appearance Bonds.** On appearance bonds, the affidavit required in (e) must be incorporated by reference in the Justification of Sureties portion of the Appearance Bond Form.
- (g) **Bond Execution and Deed Deposit.** All parties to the deed and the bond must execute the bond and take the oath. The deed, or certified copy of the deed, must be deposited with the Clerk. Upon receipt of the deed, or certified copy of the deed, the Clerk must provide a receipt to the owner. If the bond is not forfeited, the deed must be returned to the property owner in person, or by certified mail, at the conclusion of the case.

- (h) **Lis Pendens Notice and Fees.** The Clerk must file a lis pendens notice against the property in the County Clerk's Office in the county where the property is located. The required fee for filing the notice of lis pendens is required upon execution of the bond.

LR 72.1 Duties of United States Magistrate Judges

All magistrate judges may perform any of the duties authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 636(a), (b), and (c).

LR 72.2 Objections To Non-Dispositive Ruling of Magistrate Judge

Subject to any deadlines established by the Court, a party objecting to a non-dispositive order of a magistrate judge must file a written objection with fourteen (14) days of service of the non-dispositive order. Unless directed by the Court, no party may file any response to a written objection.

LR 73.1 Consent to Judgment by a Magistrate Judge

- (a) **Generally.** If the parties consent, all magistrate judges are designated within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(1) to conduct all proceedings and to enter judgment in civil matters.
- (b) **Duty of Plaintiff.** Upon filing an action, each plaintiff must obtain from the Clerk copies of notices setting forth the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(2). Each plaintiff must serve a copy of that notice with the summons and complaint on each defendant in the action.
- (c) **Duty of Clerk.** If the parties file a stipulation that a magistrate judge may try an action, the Clerk will reassign the case from the judge's docket to the magistrate judge's docket.

LR 79.1 Original Pleadings

Originals of pleadings, motions and other papers filed with the Court must not be withdrawn from Court files, unless ordered by the Court.

LR 81.1 Removal Procedures; Supplemental Filing of State Court Record and Procedure for Pending State Court Motions

- (a) **Supplemental Filing of State Court Record.** When removing an action from state court, within 30 days following the filing of a Notice of Removal, the removing party must electronically file any portion of the state court record it considers relevant to the removed action that the removing party did not file at the time of removal pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a). When filing any additional portions of the state court record, the removing party shall organize them in chronological order by state court filing date, shall include a clear and concise description of each attachment in the description field of each attachment, and shall also file the state court docket sheet.
- (b) **Obligation to Refile Pending State Court Motions.** If any motion remains pending in state court at the time of removal, and if the movant wishes the District Court to rule on the motion, the party that initially filed the motion must

refile the motion in the District Court case within 14 days after removal. Unless already fully briefed, Responses and Replies shall be filed in accordance with LR 7.1.

LR 83.1 Attorney Admission to Practice

- (a) **Applicant Eligibility.** An attorney may apply for admission to the Bar of the Court if:
 - (1) The attorney has been admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Kentucky;
 - (2) The attorney is in good standing with the Supreme Court of Kentucky; and
 - (3) The attorney is of good moral and professional character.
- (b) **Admission Procedure.** An applicant must provide the Clerk with the following:
 - (1) an Application for Admission;
 - (2) an Authorization and Release;
 - (3) an affidavit of sponsorship signed by a member of the bar; and
 - (4) the prescribed fee; and
 - (5) a statement identifying the method of training completed before use of the Court's electronic filing system.
- (c) **Admission.** After the Court grants the attorney's application, the applicant may be admitted by mail or by appointment in open court.
 - (1) **Admission by Mail.** Upon request, the Clerk will promptly mail a Certificate of Admission to the applicant.
 - (2) **Admission in Open Court.** Upon request, the Clerk will arrange for a hearing at which time the sponsor will move to admit the applicant. The presiding judge will administer the attorney's oath or affirmation in open court.

LR 83.2 Permission to Practice in a Particular Case

- (a) **Procedure.** An attorney who has not been admitted to the Bar of the Court may represent parties before the Court if the attorney has paid the prescribed pro hac vice admission fee to the Clerk of the Court, has been granted leave by the Court to appear pro hac vice in a particular case, and pays any applicable renewal fee. A separate motion for each attorney requesting pro hac vice admission must include the following information:
 - (1) *Admission Status.* The motion must identify each Bar in which the attorney is a member and include a statement indicating that the attorney requesting admission is admitted to practice, currently in active status, and in good standing as an attorney in another United States court or the highest court of any state.
 - (2) *Disciplinary History.* The motion must disclose whether the attorney is currently or has ever been disbarred, suspended from practice, or subject to other disciplinary action by any court, Bar, or other admitting or licensing authority.

- (3) *Consent to Jurisdiction.* The motion must include a statement indicating that the attorney consents to be subject to the jurisdiction and rules of the Kentucky Supreme Court governing professional conduct.
- (4) *ECF Training.* The motion must identify the method of training completed by the attorney before use of the Court's electronic filing system.
- (b) The Attorney General or any other bar member of the Department of Justice, or of any federal agency, including federal public defenders or panel attorneys that cross district lines, or any attorney appointed pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act, need not seek admission *pro hac vice* under this rule.
- (c) **Sanctions.** Nothing in this rule detracts from the Court's power to sanction unprofessional conduct.

LR 83.3 Attorney Discipline

- (a) **Discipline Generally.** Any attorney practicing before the Court is subject to discipline by the Court upon a showing that:
 - (1) The attorney is currently suspended or disbarred by any admitting or licensing authority; or
 - (2) The attorney is guilty of unprofessional conduct in the matter pending before the Court.
- (b) **Discipline By Admitting or Licensing Authority; Procedure.**
 - (1) **Attorney's Duty to Notify.** An attorney practicing before the Court who is publicly reprimanded, suspended or disbarred by any admitting or licensing authority must inform the Clerk in writing of the public reprimand, suspension or disbarment, within ten (10) days after the effective date of any such public reprimand, suspension, or disbarment.
 - (2) *Automatic Reciprocal Discipline; Discretion to Enhance Discipline.* Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, any such attorney who has been suspended or disbarred by any admitting or licensing authority, whether by suspension, revocation, or disbarment, shall automatically forfeit his or her right to practice law before this Court during the same period that such attorney has been prohibited from practicing law by such other licensing authority, or, under the Court's discretion, for a greater period of time. The Clerk of Court shall send a written notice to the attorney, together with a copy of this section of the Local Rules, informing the attorney of the forfeiture of his or her right to practice law before this court. Any failure or delay with regard to the sending of such notice shall not affect the automatic forfeiture provisions of this section.
 - (3) *Grounds for Challenge.* Within thirty (30) days after the effective date of any suspension or disbarment by any admitting or licensing authority, the attorney may file a written challenge to the reciprocal discipline imposed under section (2). To conclude that the entry of some other order is appropriate, the Court must find that the record

underlying the attorney's suspension or disbarment clearly indicates that:

- (A) the procedure was so lacking in notice or opportunity to be heard as to constitute a deprivation of due process;
 - (B) the proof establishing the misconduct was so infirm that the Court could not – consistent with its duty – accept the conclusion of the admitting or licensing authority as final;
 - (C) the Court's disqualification of the attorney would result in grave injustice; or
 - (D) the Court concludes that the misconduct underlying the attorney's suspension or disbarment warrants substantially different discipline.
- (4) *Finality of the Action of the Admitting or Licensing Authority.* Unless the Court determines that one of the grounds contained in (3) above exists, the admitting or licensing authority's final adjudication of attorney misconduct conclusively establishes the misconduct for purposes of this Court's discipline.
- (5) *Reinstatement.* Upon reinstatement of an attorney by any admitting or licensing authority, the attorney shall provide to the Clerk of Court written notice from the admitting or licensing authority confirming the reinstatement. The Clerk of Court shall then transmit the confirmation to the Chief Judge who shall determine whether the attorney may be reinstated to practice before the Court.
- (c) **Discipline for Unprofessional and Improper Conduct.** If it appears to the Court that an attorney practicing before the Court has violated the rules of the Kentucky Supreme Court governing professional conduct or is guilty of other conduct unbecoming an officer of the Court, any judge may order an attorney to show cause -- within a specified time -- why the Court should not discipline the attorney. Upon the expiration of the period specified or upon the attorney's response to the show cause order, the Court will enter an appropriate order. If requested by the responding attorney, the Court will conduct a hearing prior to determining the appropriate order.
- (d) **Discipline for Contempt.** Disbarment from the Court may be utilized as a sanction for contempt of court under the procedures contained in Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 42. Nothing in this rule shall limit the Court's power to punish contempt.

LR 83.4 Local Counsel

If the law practice of an attorney practicing before the Court is not located in proximity to the place where court is held, the Court may -- in its discretion -- require the attorney to designate local counsel. To require local counsel, the Court must enter an order articulating the reasons local counsel is required.

LR 83.5 Appearance of Counsel

Unless the Court orders otherwise, an attorney is deemed an attorney of record by:

- (a) appearing in court on behalf of a party;

- (b) filing an entry of appearance;
- (c) signing a pleading, motion or other paper as attorney for a party; or
- (d) listing his or her name as an attorney -- other than of counsel -- on a pleading, motion, or other paper.

LR 83.6 Substitution or Withdrawal of Attorney of Record

Absent leave granted by the Court upon a motion showing compelling circumstances supporting leave to withdraw, an attorney of record is not permitted to withdraw within twenty-one (21) days of trial or a hearing on any motion for judgment or dismissal. At any other time, an attorney of record may withdraw from a case only under the following circumstances:

- (a) **By Motion.** The attorney files a motion, certifies the motion was served on the client, makes a showing of good cause, and the Court consents to the withdrawal on whatever terms the Court chooses to impose. If the withdrawal will leave the client unrepresented, the motion must include the client's current email address, mailing address, and telephone number
- (b) **By Notice of Withdrawal.** An attorney of record may withdraw from a case by filing a notice of withdrawal stating that the client has been notified of the withdrawal, if:
 - (1) multiple attorneys are attorneys of record for the client; and
 - (2) at least one of those attorneys will remain attorney of record after the attorney seeking to withdraw does so.
- (c) **By Notice of Substitution.** In cases where an attorney seeks to be substituted for another as attorney of record, and both attorneys are within the same governmental department or agency, federal public defender office, or private law firm, a notice of substitution may be filed. The notice must be filed by the withdrawing attorney and the substitute attorney with an affirmative representation stating that the substitution is made with the client's consent.
- (d) **By Notice of Change of Law Firm Affiliation.** When an attorney changes his or her law firm or other legal professional affiliation, but will remain as a client's attorney of record, the attorney must file a notice of such change in law firm affiliation and provide complete updated contact information. It remains the responsibility of each attorney to maintain a current email and mailing address through their PACER account.

LR 83.8 Writs of Habeas Corpus Ad Testificandum

If a person in state or federal custody is needed for testimony or for trial in a civil case, the party desiring the person's attendance must move for a writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum at least thirty (30) working days before the date the person is needed in court to appear or testify unless exigent circumstances otherwise exist.

LR 83.9 Courtroom Decorum

- (a) **Persons Permitted Inside the Bar of the Courtroom.** Only those persons authorized by the Court, or those persons having an official function, are

permitted inside the bar of the courtroom during proceedings held in open court.

- (b) **Possession and Use of Electronic or Photographic Equipment; Generally.** Except as may be permitted by (c) or (d), no person may operate any visual or audio recording, broadcasting or transmitting device or equipment in any courtroom. This rule applies regardless of whether court is actually in session.
- (c) **Permitted Uses of Electronics.** The presiding judge may permit the following:
 - (1) Use of electronic or photographic means for presenting evidence or perpetuating the record;
 - (2) The broadcasting, televising, recording, or photographing of investitive, ceremonial, or naturalization proceedings;
 - (3) Use of electronic devices or auxiliary aids to assist individuals who require accommodation for a disability; or
 - (4) Any wireless or internet communication device approved by the Court.The presiding judge retains authority and discretion to disallow use of electronic devices at any time.
- (d) **Devices and Equipment in Courthouses.** By General Order, the Eastern and Western Districts may regulate the possession of electronic devices and equipment within each courthouse, including possession by members of the Bar. Notice of any such General Order shall be posted in a conspicuous place in all federal court buildings in the District, and will be available on the Clerk's website.
- (e) **Remote Participation.** No person remotely participating in any court proceeding may record or cause to be recorded any such proceeding.

LR 83.10 Exhibits

Unless the Court orders otherwise, exhibits must be managed as follows:

- (a) **Method of Designation.** All exhibits and materials to be used during a civil trial must be marked for identification purposes with labels obtained from the Clerk.
 - (1) Joint exhibits (JX) must be numbered using white labels;
 - (2) Plaintiff's exhibits (PX) must be numbered using pink labels;
 - (3) Defendant's exhibits (DX) must be numbered using blue labels;
 - (4) Third-party exhibits (TPX) must be numbered using green labels;
 - (5) If the proceeding involves multiple plaintiffs or multiple defendants, the identification assigned to each exhibit must contain the individual party's surname or corporate name.
- (b) **Uniform Designation.** Proposed exhibits must be uniformly identified during all phases of the case. This rule applies to all proposed exhibits, including exhibits appended to discovery requests or depositions and exhibits to be used at trial.
- (c) **Disposition of Exhibits.** The Clerk may direct counsel of record to retrieve their exhibits from the Clerk's custody by a specific date. The Clerk may

destroy any exhibits that remain unclaimed two weeks after counsel of record has been directed to retrieve them.

- (d) **X-Rays, Hospital Records and Medical Reports.** The Clerk may deliver x-ray negatives, hospital records and medical reports to the witness through whom the exhibit was introduced in evidence.
- (e) **Contraband.** If not claimed within two (2) weeks of final disposition of a case, the Clerk may deliver all contraband filed as exhibits to the appropriate agency for disposition.

LR 83.11 Attorney's Fees Petitions Under Social Security Act

- (a) Claimant's counsel may petition for attorney's fees, awardable under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b) or § 1383(d)(2)(A), within 30 days of the date shown on the face of the most recent notice of award issued by the Social Security Administration. This rule does not apply to motions for fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), which are governed by the procedures set forth in that Act at 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).
 - (1) **Petition.** The attorney's fee petition must include an itemization of the services provided in the judicial proceedings, as well as any applicable Notice(s) of Award and fee agreement. Claimant's counsel must serve a copy of the fee petition on the claimant and the United States Attorney.
 - (2) **Responses.** The United States Attorney or claimant may respond to the attorney's fee petition within 30 days of the petition's filing.

LR 83.12 Bankruptcy Matters

- (a) **Generally.** The powers of law, equity and admiralty vested in the District Court are referred to the United States Bankruptcy Court as a unit of the District Court. The following cases and proceedings are referred to the Bankruptcy Court judges for the District:
 - (1) Cases, matters and proceedings in cases, under the Bankruptcy Act pending in the Bankruptcy Court on July 9, 1984;
 - (2) All matters arising under -- or arising in or related to cases arising under -- Title 11 of the United States Code that were pending in the Bankruptcy Court on July 9, 1984, except proceedings involving tort claims for personal injury or wrongful death;
 - (3) All matters arising under -- or arising in or related to cases arising under -- Title 11 of the United States Code filed on or after July 10, 1984, except proceedings involving tort claims for personal injury or wrongful death;
 - (4) All actions for removal of claims under 28 U.S.C. §1452(a) and (b) that relate to bankruptcy cases, except proceedings involving tort claims for personal injury or wrongful death;
 - (5) All venue matters relating to bankruptcy cases under 28 U.S.C. § 1406 and 1412.
- (b) **Filing.** All matters in (a) must be filed in accordance with the local rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court.

LR 83.13 Advance Payment of Fees

- (a) **Generally.** The Clerk, the United States Marshal Service, or any other officer of the Court entitled to collect fees for services rendered may require fees to be paid in advance. This rule includes fees for filing cases.
- (b) **Payment of Fees in Seamen's Suit.**
Seamen may institute and prosecute suits in their own names and for their own benefit for wages or salvage or the enforcement of laws enacted for their health or safety without prepaying fees or costs or furnishing security therefor. In all such actions in which a seaman prevails, either by judgment or by settlement, no dismissal or satisfaction of judgment shall be filed or entered until all fees of the marshal and clerk have been paid. It shall be the responsibility of counsel handling the payment of any settlement to see to it that all fees are paid whether or not any dismissal or satisfaction of judgment entry is applied for.

LR 83.14 Modification or Amendment of Local Rules

- (a) **Modification in Particular Case.** A judge may modify any local rule in a case by entering an appropriate order.
- (b) **Amendments to the Joint Local Rules.** The Courts may amend these rules by entering an appropriate order in each District under the procedures in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 83. The Courts have agreed not to adopt an amendment to the Joint Local Rules of Civil or Criminal Practice until considered by the Joint Local Rules Commission.
- (c) **Joint Local Rules Commission Membership**
 - (1) **Generally.** The Joint Local Rules Commission is comprised of the following members:
 - (A) two judges from each District;
 - (B) four practicing attorneys from each District;
 - (C) a chairperson selected by -- and serving at the will of -- the Chief Judges of the Districts.
 - (2) **Judge Members.** Judge members of the Commission must include the Chief Judges of the respective Districts -- or his or her designee -- and one other judge selected by the judges of each Court.
 - (3) **Attorney Members.** The Board of Governors of the Kentucky Bar Association must appoint the attorney members of the Commission. Attorney members must be selected from those attorneys currently practicing in the Eastern or Western District of Kentucky -- or in both Districts. The Board should select attorneys so as to maintain geographic representation for all Bar members in Kentucky.
- (d) **Terms of Office for Attorney Members.** Attorney members of the Commission must be appointed for a four year period. The initial appointments must be staggered terms of one, two, three or four years to achieve continuity on the Commission. Commission members at the time this rule takes effect may be reappointed to the Commission in appropriately staggered terms to maintain continuity.

- (e) **Meetings.** The Commission will meet bi-annually in a place convenient to as many members as possible. If no one identifies any agenda items to the chairperson prior to the scheduled meeting, the meeting may be canceled. A quorum consists of the following:
- (1) one judge from each District; and
 - (2) two attorneys from each District.

LR 85.1 Citation

These rules may be known as the Joint Local Rules of Civil Practice, and cited as “LR ____.”

LR 86.1 Effective Date

These rules, as amended from time to time, first took effect in 1986. Amendments to these rules take effect upon entry of each Joint General Order ordering such amendments. Except for jury plans, speedy trial plans and criminal justice plans for each district, these rules supersede all previous local rules and court orders.

INDEX
JOINT LOCAL RULES OF CIVIL PRACTICE

ADMISSION TO PRACTICE	
General Admissions	<u>LR 83.1</u>
Pro Hac Vice	<u>LR 83.2</u>
Government Attorneys	<u>LR 83.2</u>
Attorneys Appointed – Criminal Justice Act	<u>LR 83.2</u>
AFFIDAVITS	
Appearance bond	<u>LR 65.1</u>
Attorney admission to practice	<u>LR 83.1</u>
Extension of time	<u>LR 83.11</u>
In forma pauperis application	<u>LR 5.4</u>
Real property surety	<u>LR 65.1.1</u>
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION	<u>LR 16.2</u>
APPEARANCES AND WITHDRAWALS	
Appearance as attorney	<u>LR 83.5</u>
Withdrawal of appearance	<u>LR 83.6</u>
ASSIGNMENT OF CASES	
Among judges	<u>LR 40.1</u>
Jury divisions	<u>LR 3.2</u>
	<u>LR 8.1</u>
Motions under 28 U.S.C. § 2255	<u>LR 3.2</u>
Pro se filings	<u>LR 5.3</u>
ATTORNEYS	
Admissions	<u>LR 83.1</u>
Appearance	<u>LR 83.5</u>
Discipline	<u>LR 83.3</u>
Fees	<u>LR 54.4</u>
	<u>LR 83.11</u>
Local counsel	<u>LR 83.4</u>
Pro hac vice	<u>LR 83.2</u>
Withdrawal	<u>LR 83.6</u>
BANKRUPTCY MATTERS	<u>LR 83.12</u>
BILL OF COSTS	<u>LR 54.3</u>
BONDS	<u>LR 65.1</u>
CALENDARING	<u>LR 40.1</u>

CERTIFICATE	
Of admission	LR 83.1
Of judgment	LR 4.3
CHANGE OF ADDRESS	LR 5.3
COMPLAINT	
In forma pauperis	LR 5.4
Pro se	LR 5.3
Residence information	LR 8.1
Service	LR 4.1
Social Security	LR 83.11
COMPUTATION OF TIME	LR 6.2
CONSENT TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE	LR 73.1
CORPORATIONS	
Venue	LR 3.2
COSTS	
Assessment of jury costs	LR 54.1
Bill of costs	LR 54.3
Filing time	LR 54.4
COUNSEL	
Appearance	LR 83.5
Local	LR 83.4
COURT FILES	LR 79.1
COURTROOM DECORUM	LR 83.9
DEADLINE EXTENSIONS	LR 7.1
DISBARMENT	LR 83.3
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS	LR 83.3
DISCOVERY	
Exhibits	LR 83.10
Motions	LR 37.1
Responses	LR 26.1
DISMISSAL OF ACTION	
For failure to file court-supplied form	LR 5.3
For failure to prosecute	LR 41.1

For failure to provide address change	<u>LR 5.3</u>
DISPOSITION OF EXHIBITS	<u>LR 83.10</u>
ELECTRONIC FILING	
Document filing	<u>LR 5.5</u>
Service	<u>LR 5.5</u>
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT	<u>LR83.9</u>
EVIDENCE	
Electronic presentation	<u>LR 83.9</u>
Mediation proceedings	<u>LR 16.2</u>
EXHIBITS	
Disposition	<u>LR 83.10</u>
Identification	<u>LR 83.10</u>
EXTENSION OF TIME	
Generally	<u>LR 7.1</u>
Social Security cases	<u>LR 83.11</u>
EXEMPTIONS TO RULE 16	<u>LR 16.1</u>
EXPENSES, ATTORNEY	<u>LR 54.4</u>
	<u>LR 83.11</u>
FAILURE TO PROSECUTE	<u>LR 41.1</u>
FEES	
Advance payment	<u>LR 83.13</u>
Attorney fees	<u>LR 54.4</u>
	<u>LR 83.11</u>
In forma pauperis status	<u>LR 5.4</u>
Lis pendens notice	<u>LR 65.1</u>
Seamen's suit	<u>LR 83.13</u>
FILING OF PLEADINGS	
Place of filing	<u>LR 5.1</u>
Bankruptcy matters	<u>LR 83.12</u>
Court-supplied forms	<u>LR 5.3</u>
Electronically	<u>LR 5.5</u>

FORMS	
Appearance bond	LR 65.1
Pro se actions	LR 5.3
Process	LR 4.3
Summons by marshal	LR 4.2 , LR 45.1
HABEAS CORPUS	
Ad testificandum	LR 83.8
Forms	LR 5.3
In forma pauperis	LR 5.4
Jury division assignment	LR 3.2
Pro se	LR 5.3
HEARINGS	
Attorney admission	LR 83.1
Disciplinary	LR 83.3
Motions	LR 7.1
IN FORMA PAUPERIS	LR 5.4
INTERROGATORIES	LR 26.1
JURY	
Assessment of jury costs	LR 54.1
Contact with jurors	LR 47.1
Divisions	LR 3.1
	LR 3.2
Excuse from service	LR 47.1
Peremptory challenges	LR 47.1
LACK OF PROSECUTION	LR 41.1
LAST DAY	LR 6.1
LOCAL COUNSEL	LR 83.4
LOCAL RULES	
Citation	LR 85.1
Effective date	LR 86.1
Joint Local Rules Commission	LR 83.14
Modification and amendment	LR 83.14
Scope and purpose	LR 1.1
MAGISTRATE JUDGES	
Consensual reference to	LR 73.1
Duties	LR 72.1
Objections To Non-Dispositive Rulings of	LR 72.2

MARSHALL	
Fees	LR 83.13
Service of subpoenas	LR 45.1
Service of summons	LR 4.2
MEDIATION	LR 16.2
MEMORANDA	LR 7.1
MOTIONS	
Attorney fees and costs	LR 54.4
Discovery	LR 37.1
Format of	LR 5.2
Generally	LR 7.1
In forma pauperis	LR 5.4
Place of filing	LR 5.1
Pro hac vice	LR 83.2
Pro se	LR 5.3
NOTICE OF	
Attorney discipline	LR 83.3
Change of address	LR 5.3
Consent to judgment by magistrate judge	LR 73.1
Electronic equipment restrictions	LR 83.9
Electronic filing (NEF)	LR 5.5
Lis pendens	LR 65.1
Settlement	LR 54.1
Removal	LR 81.1
NUMBERING OF EXHIBITS	LR 83.10
ORDERS PREPARED BY COUNSEL	LR 7.1
PAGE LIMITATIONS	LR 7.1
PAPERS	
Not on court-supplied forms	LR 5.3
Removal of	LR 79.1
Size and format	LR 5.2
PHOTOGRAPHY	LR 83.9
PRISONER CASES	LR 5.3
PRO HAC VICE	LR 83.2

PRO SE	
Actions generally	LR 5.3
Mailing address	LR 5.3
Preparation of process	LR 4.3
PROCESS	
Preparation	LR 4.3
Service through Secretary of State	LR 4.1
REAL ESTATE BOND	LR 65.1
RELATED CASES	LR 40.1
REMOVAL CASES	LR 3.2
REPLIES	LR 7.1
REQUEST FOR ADMISSION	LR 26.1
RESPONSES	LR 7.1
RULE (CivPro) 16 EXEMPTIONS	LR 16.1
RULE (CrimPro) 42	LR 83.3
RULE (CivPro) 83	LR 83.14
SANCTIONS	
Attorney discipline	LR 83.3
Failure to comply with rules or orders	LR 5.3
Unprofessional conduct	LR 83.2
	LR 83.3
SCOPE OF LOCAL RULES	LR 1.1
SERVICE	
Electronically	LR 5.5
Secretary of State	LR 4.1
Social Security number separate	LR 83.11
United States Marshal	LR 4.2
	LR 45.1
Court Judgments and Orders	LR 5.7
SETTLEMENT	LR 54.1
SEALED DOCUMENTS	LR 5.6

SOCIAL SECURITY APPEALS	LR 83.11
SUBPOENAS	LR 4.3 LR 45.1
SUMMONS	LR 4.1 LR 4.2 LR 4.3
SURETY REQUIREMENTS	LR 65.1
TIME	
Attorney fees and non-taxable expenses	LR 54.4
Bill of costs	LR 54.3
Completion of pleading	LR 4.3
Extensions	LR 7.1
Last Day	LR 6.1
Reply	LR 7.1
Response	LR 7.1
Social Security answer	LR 83.11
TRIAL	
Exhibits	LR 83.10
Scheduling	LR 40.1
TRANSFER	
Intradistrict	LR 3.2
VENUE	
Bankruptcy	LR 83.12
Corporations	LR 3.2
Governmental	LR 3.2
VERIFICATIONS	
Electronic filing	LR 5.5
Pro se filing	LR 5.3
WITHDRAWAL OF ATTORNEY	LR 83.6
28 U.S.C. § 2255	LR 5.3 LR 5.4