

**15.1 COMMERCIAL DOCKET**

- (A) **Establishment of Commercial Docket.** Effective January 1, 2018, the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, General Division established a commercial docket pursuant to Sup. R. 49 through 49.12.
- (B) **Judges.**
- (1) **Judges Designated.** Four judges have been designated to hear all cases assigned to the commercial docket and will be referred to as the commercial docket judges.
  - (2) **Term of Commercial Docket Judges.** The term of the commercial docket judges will be three years. To ensure the continuity of experience among the commercial docket judges, the initial selection has been staggered. Cases assigned to a commercial docket judge will remain on that judge's docket after expiration of the judge's term.
  - (3) **Designation of Commercial Docket Judges.** All judges meeting the minimum requirements of Sup. R. 49.02 (A)(1) (a) or (b), and agreeing to participate as a commercial docket judge may submit their names to the Administrative Judge who shall conduct a random draw during a scheduled judges meeting not less than 60 days prior to the expiration of a commercial docket judge's term. The court will follow with a vote to confirm the designated judge(s).
- (C) **Adjustment of Other Case Assignments.** To guarantee a fair and equal distribution of cases, upon the transfer of a case to a commercial docket judge, the next non-commercial docket case filed, which under the random assignment process would have been assigned to the commercial docket judge, must be assigned to the judge who transferred the case to the commercial docket.
- (D) **Local Rules Apply.**
- (1) Unless otherwise ordered in a specific case, the general Local Rules of Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas apply in all commercial docket cases.
  - (2) A refiled case may not be transferred to the commercial docket unless it was previously on the commercial docket, or transfer is approved by a commercial docket judge due to anticipated consolidation with a commercial docket case. A refiled commercial case will be returned to the previously assigned commercial docket judge whose term has expired.
- (E) **Consolidation of Commercial and Non-Commercial Cases.** Upon motion pursuant to Civ. R. 42 and L. R. 15(H), any commercial docket case and any non-commercial civil case involving common or related questions of law or fact may be consolidated to the commercial docket. In the event of such consolidation, the consolidated case(s) will be assigned to the commercial docket judge with the related case.

*Effective 10/16/2019.*