

CASE ASSIGNMENT RULES

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 154(a), the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Washington promulgates the following rules for the division of business among the bankruptcy judges, effective as of November 1, 2019:

- Chapter 7, 11, 12, and 13 cases regarding debtors with their residence, principal place of business, or principal assets in the following counties will be assigned to the bankruptcy judge with a duty station in Spokane (the “Spokane Judge”): Asotin, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman.
- Chapter 7, 11, 12, and 13 cases regarding debtors with their residence, principal place of business, or principal assets in the following counties will be assigned to the bankruptcy judge with a duty station in Yakima (the “Yakima Judge”): Adams, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Kittitas, Klickitat, Walla Walla, and Yakima.
- Chapter 7, 11, and 13 cases regarding individual debtors who no longer reside in the Eastern District of Washington but as to whom a bankruptcy case may be commenced in the Eastern District of Washington pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1408 will be assigned on a case-by-case basis based on the proximity of the parties in interest (including the debtor, the debtor’s attorney, creditors, and any other applicable stakeholders) to Spokane or Yakima, the meeting of creditors location, and any other circumstances relevant to assignment of the case.
- Chapter 7 and 11 cases regarding debtors that are incorporated or organized under the laws of the State of Washington but do not have a principal place of business or principal assets in the Eastern District of Washington will be assigned on an alternating basis between the Spokane Judge and the Yakima Judge.
- Notwithstanding the preceding rules, any cases filed in the Eastern District of Washington in which there is a pending bankruptcy case in the district concerning the debtor’s affiliate, general partner, or partnership will be assigned to the same judge as the pending case.
- As required by 11 U.S.C. § 921(b), chapter 9 cases will be assigned by order of the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
- Chapter 15 cases will be assigned on a case-by-case basis after considering the grounds for venue under 28 U.S.C. § 1410, any connections of the debtor with particular counties or regions within the Eastern District of Washington, and any other circumstances relevant to assignment of the case.
- Adversary proceedings related to a bankruptcy case pending in the Eastern District of Washington will be assigned to the same judge as the underlying bankruptcy case. Adversary proceedings not related to a bankruptcy case pending in the Eastern District of Washington will be assigned on an alternating basis between the Spokane Judge and the Yakima Judge.

CASE ASSIGNMENT RULES

- The court reserves the power to reassign any given bankruptcy case, adversary proceeding, or contested matter between the Spokane Judge and the Yakima Judge based on ethical considerations, administrative convenience, the interests of justice, or the convenience of the parties. Reassignment may be ordered *sua sponte* or on the motion of a party in interest.

The court may change or revise these rules at any time, for any reason, and without prior notice.