

THE BLACK LINE SYSTEM - SIMPLIFIED

BECAUSE SOME ASPECTS OF THE BLACK LINE SYSTEM HAVE CHANGED SINCE BEING IMPLEMENTED, A SIMPLIFIED AND CONCISE EXPLANATION OF HOW THE SYSTEM NOW WORKS FOLLOWS:

**HON. WILLIAM D. MADDUX
PRESIDING JUDGE, LAW DIVISION**

CATEGORIZATION OF CASES:

- PARTIES APPEAR FOR INITIAL CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 90 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF FILING
- THE MOTION JUDGE WILL ALLOW 18 MONTHS ("CATEGORY 1") OR 28 MONTHS ("CATEGORY 2") FROM THE DATE OF FILING TO COMPLETE DISCOVERY

DISCOVERY / PRE-TRIAL / MOTION PRACTICE:

- THE MOTION JUDGE HEARS ALL MOTIONS, EVEN AFTER THE CASE HAS ENTERED THE BLACK LINE POOL, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MOTIONS THAT WILL AFFECT A "DATE CERTAIN" TRIAL DATE AND MOTIONS TO REMOVE A CASE FROM THE BLACK LINE POOL
- THE MOTION JUDGE SHALL HEAR MOTIONS TO ADVANCE A CASE FOR TRIAL WHEREBY HE / SHE CAN EXPEDITE DISCOVERY AND HAS THE OPTION TO RELEASE THE CASE INTO THE BLACK LINE POOL OR SET A STATUS DATE IN COURTROOM 2005

RELEASE INTO THE BLACK LINE POOL:

- THE MOTION JUDGE CAN RELEASE A CASE INTO THE BLACK LINE POOL
- THE AUTO RELEASE DATE IS 18 / 28 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF FILING OR 6 MONTHS FROM THE DATE THE CASE WAS RETURNED TO THE MOTION JUDGE
- THE RELEASE DATE OF A CASE CAN BE OBTAINED BY USE OF A PUBLIC ACCESS TERMINAL IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE--ENTER "LDBR", THEN ENTER THE CASE NUMBER AND THE RELEASE DATE WILL BE SHOWN

MOTIONS BROUGHT IN COURTROOM 2005:

- **WHEN THE CASE IS ABOVE THE BLACK LINE--DAILY AT 9:30 a.m.**
 - DO NOT EXPECT AN IMMEDIATE TRIAL ASSIGNMENT UNLESS ALL PARTIES ARE READY FOR TRIAL
 - THE GOAL IS TO SET A "DATE CERTAIN" TRIAL DATE WITHIN 30 DAYS
 - CASES THAT CANNOT BE SET FOR TRIAL WITHIN 30 DAYS WILL RECEIVE A TRIAL DATE ALONG WITH A CORRESPONDING STATUS DATE 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SET TRIAL DATE
- **MOTIONS TO REMOVE (FOR CASES WITH EXTENSIVE DISCOVERY)**
 - THE JUDGE MAY RE-SEQUENCE THE CASE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE POOL OR ANYWHERE IN THE POOL WHEN THERE IS LESS THAN 6 MONTHS OF DISCOVERY REMAINING
 - THE JUDGE MAY RETURN THE CASE TO THE MOTION JUDGE FOR 6 MONTHS TO COMPLETE DISCOVERY
- **MOTIONS BROUGHT ON THE "M1" MOTION CALL--DAILY AT 10:30 a.m.**
 - MOTIONS FOR A "DATE CERTAIN" TRIAL DATE WITHIN 30 DAYS
 - MOTIONS IMPACTING A "DATE CERTAIN" TRIAL DATE
 - MOTIONS TO CONSOLIDATE, TRANSFER, AND VACATE / RECONSIDER

TOOLS FOR TRACKING YOUR CASE:

- THE *CHICAGO DAILY LAW BULLETIN*
- ONLINE: WWW.COOKCOUNTYCLERKOF COURT.ORG
 - ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE, CLICK ON "ONLINE CASE INFO"
 - CLICK ON "BLACK LINE POOL TRIAL CALL SEARCH"
 - ENTER THE NECESSARY INFORMATION, AND YOUR CASE WILL APPEAR
 - SIMPLY CLICK THE "SEARCH NOW" BUTTON, AND YOU CAN ACCESS THE CASES ABOVE AND BELOW THE BLACK LINE (ALL CASES IN THE POOL)
 - ENTER "LDBI" USING A PUBLIC ACCESS TERMINAL IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE, THEN ENTER THE CASE NUMBER IN ORDER TO FIND THE POSITION OF THE CASE IN THE BLACK LINE POOL