

STATE OF ILLINOIS        )  
  ) SS  
COUNTY OF COOK         )

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY  
LAW DIVISION

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 03-1  
BLACK LINE TRIAL CALL**

Effective March 20, 2004, all cases on the Jury and Non-Jury Trial Assignment Calls will be governed by the Black Line Trial call. **\*(Please note that the categorization of cases will begin on January 27, 2003, on all Master Calendar Motion cases up for the first time.)**

1.1 Categorization of Cases (*As amended April 12, 2004, pursuant to General Administrative Order 04-2.*)

- a. Each Master Calendar Motion Judge shall categorize each case appearing on the initial case management call (90 days from filing) with a numeric category destination:

Category 1: Cases that can be completely finished with **ALL** discovery within **18** months from date of filing.\*

Category 2: Cases that can be completely finished with **ALL** discovery within **28** months from date of filing.

**\*Please note that the change in category designation applies only to the following: (1) newly categorized cases; (2) those cases already categorized under Law Division General Administrative Order 03-1 that have at no time entered the Black Line Pool of cases prior to April 12, 2004.**

- b. Once a case has been categorized, the Master Calendar Motion Judge will monitor discovery with the intent of completing discovery in the amount of time allotted by its category.
- c. Cases originally given a Category 1 designation may be re-categorized to a Category 2 **IF** the assigned motion Judge determines that information provided after the original categorization justifies the case receiving additional time to complete discovery. Re-categorization must be done prior to the case reaching its discovery maturity date.

- d. *(As amended January 17, 2006, pursuant to General Administrative Order 06-1.)*  
Upon completion of **ALL** discovery, the assigned motion Judge will enter a code that will “RELEASE” the case into the pool of cases that are traveling up towards the Black Line for **setting of date certain trial dates**.
- e. Cases that **DO NOT** complete **ALL** discovery within the time allotted by its category and are **NOT** released by the motion Judge will be selected automatically by the computer, after the designated discovery completion deadline, to enter the pool of cases traveling up towards the Black Line.

## 1.2 Progression of Cases

- a. *(As amended January 17, 2006, pursuant to General Administrative Order 06-1.)* As cases enter the Black Line Trial Call Pool, they will be given the next available sequence number and will begin to travel up towards the Black Line for **setting of date certain trial dates**. The progression towards the Black Line will be impacted by the disposition of cases that precede the case in question. These dispositions can include the dismissal of the case, transfer of a case out of the division, placement of a case on a stay calendar, or a determination that the case needs to be placed back in sequence thereby allowing additional time before reaching the Black Line Trial Call.

## 1.3 Transferred Cases

- a. Cases that are transferred into the Law Division shall be identified and placed on the calendar “M” call which will be heard daily at 10:30 a.m. in Room 2005. These cases shall be screened by the Presiding Judge, or his designee, to determine the appropriate placement of the case based on the posture of the case as it is when transferred into the Law Division.

## 1.4 Tracking the Progression of a Case

- a. *(As amended January 17, 2006, pursuant to General Administrative Order 06-1.)* A sequential list of Black Line cases will be posted on the Circuit Court Clerk’s web site. This will allow attorneys and litigants to track the

progression of a selected case as it proceeds toward the Black Line for **setting of date certain trial dates**.

- b. A sequential list of about 300 Black Line cases will be updated and published daily in the Chicago Law Bulletin.
- c. *(As amended January 17, 2006, pursuant to General Administrative Order 06-1.)* A sequential list of cases that will appear above the Black Line for **setting of date certain trial dates** will be published in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and on the Circuit Court Clerk's web site the court day prior to the case appearing above the Black Line.
- d. *(As amended January 17, 2006, pursuant to General Administrative Order 06-1.)* The Presiding Judge, or his designee, will select the next group of cases in numeric sequence that will be placed above the Black Line for **setting of date certain trial dates**.

1.5 Motion Practice *(as amended February 7, 2005 pursuant to Law Division General Administrative Order 05-1)*

- a. Motion practice for cases that have entered the Black Line Trial Assignment Pool shall remain before the originally assigned Master Calendar Motion Judge who shall hear and complete noticed motions prior to the case being placed above the Black Line. The only exception will be for a motion that will directly impact a case's ability to continue progressing towards the Black Line, which must be heard by the Presiding Judge, or his designee, **only on the day the case appears above the Black Line**.
- b. Motions to advance cases for Trial Assignment shall be brought before the assigned Master Calendar Motion Judge who may, if appropriate, expedite discovery and release the case in question into the Black Line pool when discovery is completed.
- c. Motions to delay the progress of cases traveling up towards the Black Line (motions to continue) shall **no longer** be noticed and spindled for

Calendar M<sup>1</sup>. These motions shall be noticed and presented **only on the day the case appears above the Black Line.**

- (i) If the Presiding Judge or his designee agree that a case's progress toward the Black Line should be delayed, the Judge may place a case back sequentially by a specific number of cases. (Example: If a case currently has a sequence number of 50 cases below the Black Line and the Presiding Judge, or his designee, determines that a case should be given additional time before reaching the Black Line, the case may be set back x#(300) cases, thus becoming the 350<sup>th</sup> case below the Black Line.)
- (ii) If the Presiding Judge, or his designee, agree that a case should be removed from the Black Line Pool and returned to the assigned Motion Calendar for completion of discovery, the selected case will automatically return to the Black Line Pool six (6) months from the date of return to the assigned Motion Calendar. The assigned motion Judge may "release" the case into the Black Line Pool prior to the six (6) month automatic release date if discovery is complete.

d. Motions for Date Certain Trial Dates

- (i) Motions for Date Certain Trial Dates shall be noticed and presented on the day a case appears above the Black Line. Date Certain Trial Dates shall be routinely given, provided the parties have shown due diligence in preparing the case in question for trial.
- (ii) Date Certain Trial Dates will generally be set for a date within 30 days from the date the case appears above the Black Line.
- (iii) For cases that would be unable to be ready for trial within 30 days of appearing above the Black Line, a trial status **MAY** be set approximately 30 days before the requested trial date to confirm the availability of **ALL** parties on the date requested.
- (iv) Motions to Continue Date Certain Trial Dates shall be noticed and spindled in Room 801 on Motion Calendar M<sup>1</sup>, which will be heard daily at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 2005.

\*\* Please note that Date Certain Trial Dates will **NOT** routinely be continued.

- (v) Motions to Continue Date Certain Trial Dates that cannot be noticed and spindled for hearing on Motion Calendar M<sup>1</sup> prior to the trial date may present an emergency motion to continue the trial date by noticing the motion for 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 2005. The party presenting the motion should approach the bench at the conclusion of the regular M<sup>1</sup> motion call and ask the judge presiding over the call to entertain the Emergency Motion to Continue Trial Date. These motions will be heard at the discretion of the Judge handling the call.

\*\* Once again please note that Date Certain Trial Dates will **NOT** routinely be continued.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Order is effective January 17, 2003, and will be spread upon the records of this court.

Dated at Chicago, Illinois this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2003

ENTER: \_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM D. MADDUX  
Presiding Judge  
Law Division