ASSIGNMENT TO THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and with the advice and consent of the Administrative Board of the Courts, I hereby amend, effective immediately, section 202.70(a) of the Uniform Civil Rules for the Supreme and County Courts, relating to the monetary thresholds of the Commercial Division, to read as follows:

(a) Monetary thresholds

Except as set forth in subdivision (b), the monetary thresholds of the Commercial Division, exclusive of punitive damages, interests, costs, disbursements and counsel fees claimed, are established as follows:

Albany County	\$25,000
Erie County	\$25,000

Kings County [\$50,000] <u>\$75,000</u>

Nassau County \$75,000

New York County \$100,000

Onondaga County \$25,000

Queens County \$50,000

Seventh Judicial District \$25,000

Suffolk County \$25,000

Westchester County [\$100,000] <u>\$75,000</u>

Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts

Dated:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and with the advice and consent of the Administrative Board of the Courts, I hereby amend, effective immediately, section 202.70(a) of the Uniform Civil Rules for the Supreme and County Courts, relating to the monetary thresholds of the Commercial Division, to read as follows:

(a) Monetary thresholds

Except as set forth in subdivision (b), the monetary thresholds of the Commercial Division, exclusive of punitive damages, interests, costs, disbursements and counsel fees claimed, are established as follows:

Albany County	\$25,000
Erie County	[\$25,000] \$50,000
Kings County	\$75,000
Nassau County	\$75,000
New York County	\$100,000
Onondaga County	\$25,000
Queens County	\$50,000
Seventh Judicial District	\$25,000
Suffolk County	[\$25,000] \$50,000
Westchester County \$75,	000

Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts

Dated:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and with the advice and consent of the Administrative Board of the Courts, I hereby amend, effective immediately, section 202.70(a) of the Uniform Civil Rules for the Supreme and County Courts, relating to the monetary thresholds of the Commercial Division, to read as follows:

(a) Monetary thresholds

Except as set forth in subdivision (b), the monetary thresholds of the Commercial Division, exclusive of punitive damages, interests, costs, disbursements and counsel fees claimed, are established as follows:

Albany County	\$25,000
[Erie County] Eighth Judicial Dist	<u>rict</u> \$50,000
Kings County	\$75,000
Nassau County	\$75,000
New York County	\$100,000
Onondaga County	\$25,000
Queens County	\$50,000
Seventh Judicial District	\$25,000
Suffolk County	\$50,000
Westchester County	\$75,000

Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts

Dated:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and with the advice and consent of the Administrative Board of the Courts, I hereby amend, effective immediately, section 202.70(a) of the Uniform Civil Rules of the Supreme and County Courts, relating to monetary thresholds for the commercial division of the Supreme Court, to read as follows:

§ 202.70. Rules of the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court

(a) Monetary thresholds

Except as set forth in subdivision (b), the monetary thresholds of the Commercial Division, exclusive of punitive damages, interests, costs, disbursements and counsel fees claimed, is established as follows:

Albany County	\$25,000
Eighth Judicial District	\$50,000
Kings County	\$75,000
Nassau County	\$75,000
New York County	[100,000] \$150,000
Onondaga County	\$25,000
Queens County	\$50,000
Seventh Judicial District	\$25,000
Suffolk County	\$50,000
Westchester County	\$75,000

Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts

Dated: January 5, 2009

AO/ 47 /09

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and with the advice and consent of the Administrative Board of the Courts, I hereby amend, effective immediately, section 202.70(a) of the Uniform Civil Rules of the Supreme and County Courts, relating to monetary thresholds for the Commercial Division, to read as follows:

§ 202.70. Rules of the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court

(a) Monetary thresholds

Except as set forth in subdivision (b), the monetary thresholds of the Commercial Division, exclusive of punitive damages, interests, costs, disbursements and counsel fees claimed, is are established as follows:

Albany County	\$25,000	
Eighth Judicial District	\$50,000	
Kings County	\$75,000	
Nassau County	\$100,000	
New York County	\$150,000	
Onondaga County	\$25,000	
Queens County	\$50,000	
Seventh Judicial District	\$25,000	
Suffolk County	\$50,000	
Westchester County	\$75,000	\$100,000

Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts	

Dated:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and with the advice and consent of the Administrative Board of the Courts, I hereby amend, effective February 17, 2014, section 202.70(a) of the Uniform Civil Rules of the Supreme and County Courts, relating to monetary thresholds for the Commercial Division, to read as follows:

§ 202.70. Rules of the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court

(a) Monetary Thresholds

Except as set forth in subdivision (b), the monetary thresholds of the Commercial Division, exclusive of punitive damages, interests, costs, disbursements and counsel fees claimed, are established as follows:

Albany County	\$25,000	
Eighth Judicial District	\$50,000	
Kings County	\$75,000	
Nassau County	\$100,000	
New York County	\$150,000	\$500,000
Onondaga County	\$25,000	
Queens County	\$50,000	
Seventh Judicial District	\$50,000	
Suffolk County	\$50,000	
Westchester County	\$100,000	

Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts

Dated: January 28, 2014

AO/32 /14

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and with the advice and consent of the Administrative Board of the Courts, I hereby amend, effective September 2, 2014, section 202.70(a) of the Uniform Civil Rules of the Supreme and County Courts, relating to monetary thresholds for the Commercial Division, to read as follows:

§ 202.70. Rules of the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court

(a) Monetary thresholds

Except as set forth in subdivision (b), the monetary thresholds of the Commercial Division, exclusive of punitive damages, interests, costs, disbursements and counsel fees claimed, are established as follows:

Albany County	\$-25,000	\$ 50,000
Eighth Judicial District	\$-50,000	\$100,000
Kings County	\$-75,000	\$150,000
Nassau County	\$100,000	\$200,000
New York County	\$500,000	•
Onondaga County	\$-25,000	\$ 50,000
Queens County	\$-50,000	\$100,000
Seventh Judicial District	\$ 50,000	·
Suffolk County	\$ 50,000	\$100,000
Westchester County	\$100,000	•

Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts

Dated: July 14, 2014

AO/118/14



STATE OF NEW YORK UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM

25 BEAVER STREET NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004 TEL: (212) 428-2150 FAX: (212) 428-2155

A. GAIL PRUDENTI
Chief Administrative Judge

JOHN W. McCONNELL Counsel

MEMORANDUM

April 7, 2014

To: All Interested Persons

From: John W. McConnell

Re: Proposed amendment of 22 NYCRR § 202.70(d) (Rules of the Commercial

Division), relating to the assignment of cases to the Commercial Division.

The Commercial Division Advisory Council has recommended an amendment of section 202.70(d) of the Rules of the Commercial Division that would encourage earlier assignment of cases to the Commercial Division (Exh. A). According to the Advisory Council, many commercial cases are not benefitting from early judicial case management because they are not assigned to the Commercial Division until discovery is well under way or a motion for summary judgment is made. Under this proposal, any party would be able to seek assignment of a case to the Commercial Division by filing, within 90 days of service of the complaint, a Commercial Division RJI certifying that the case meets the requisite jurisdictional requirements. Failure to file an RJI within 90 days would preclude the party from later seeking transfer of the case to the Commercial Division, except by written application to the Administrative Judge for "good cause shown." If an RJI is filed within 90 days without seeking assignment to the Commercial Division, any other party would have ten days to apply to the Administrative Judge for a transfer of the case to the Commercial Division. In addition, a non-Commercial Division Justice may request transfer of a case to the Commercial Division where jurisdictional requirements are met.

Persons wishing to comment on this proposal should e-mail their submissions to <u>rulecomments@nycourts.gov</u> or write to: John W. McConnell, Esq., Counsel, Office of Court Administration, 25 Beaver Street, 11th Fl., New York, New York 10004. Comments must be received no later than June 2, 2014.

All public comments will be treated as available for disclosure under the Freedom of Information Law and are subject to publication by the Office of Court Administration. Issuance of a proposal for public comment should not be interpreted as an endorsement of that proposal by the Unified Court System or the Office of Court Administration.

EXHIBIT A

Memorandum

To:

Commercial Division Advisory Council

From:

Subcommittee on Procedural Rules to Promote Efficient Case Resolution

Date:

January 23, 2014

Re:

Proposed Amendments to New York Commercial Division Assignment Rules

The Subcommittee on Procedural Rules to promote Efficient Case Resolution has given consideration to amending the Commercial Division assignment rules, and the proposed amendments are set forth below.

BACKGROUND

In the June 2012 report of the Chief Judge's Task Force on Commercial Litigation in the 21st Century (excerpt attached), the Task Force recommended a rule change with respect to the assignment of cases to the Commercial Division. Under the rules as currently drafted, a case is not assigned to the Commercial Division until a Request for Judicial Intervention (RJI) is filed. Yet, it is often the case that RJIs are not filed until after discovery is well underway. Indeed, in some circumstances, cases are not assigned to a Commercial Division judge until the time of summary judgment motions. The amendments would achieve the benefit of getting a case before a Commercial Division judge soon after service of the complaint. As noted in the enclosed excerpt, early and continued judicial involvement will assist in streamlining discovery by facilitating prompt resolution of disputes and monitoring compliance with discovery obligations. The proposed amendments are as follows:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Section 202.70 Rules of the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court

(d) Assignment to the Commercial Division

Within 90 days following service of the complaint, any party may seek assignment of a case to the Commercial Division by filing a A party seeking assignment of a case to the Commercial Division shall indicate on the Request for Judicial Intervention (RJI) the appropriate Nature of Action or Proceeding

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eategory and shall-that attaches a completed Commercial Division RJI Addendum certifying that the case meets the jurisdictional requirements for Commercial Division assignment set forth in subdivisions (a), (b) and (c) of this section. Except as provided in subsection (e) below, failure to file an RJI pursuant to this subdivision precludes a party from seeking assignment of the case to the Commercial Division.

(e) Transfer into the Commercial Division

If an RJI is filed within the 90-day period following service of the complaint and a the case is assigned to a non-commercial part because the filing party did not designate the case as "commercial" on the RJI, any other party may apply by letter application (with a copy to all parties) to the Administrative Judge, within ten days after receipt of a copy of the RJI, for a transfer of the case into the Commercial Division. Further, notwithstanding the time periods set forth in subdivisions (d) and (e) of this section, for good cause shown for the delay a party may seek the transfer of a case to the Commercial Division by letter application (with a copy to all parties) to the Administrative Judge. In addition, a non-Commercial Division justice to whom a case is assigned may sua sponte request the Administrative Judge to transfer a case that meets the iurisdictional requirements for Commercial Division assignment set forth in subdivisions (a), (b) and (c) of this section to the Commercial Division. The determinations of the Administrative Judge with respect to any letter applications or requests under this subsection shall be final and subject to no further administrative review or appeal.

- (f) Transfer from the Commercial Division
 - (1) In the discretion of the Commercial Division justice assigned, if a case does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Commercial Division as set forth in this section, it shall be transferred to a non-commercial part of the court.
 - (2) Any party aggrieved by a transfer of a case to a non-commercial part may seek review by letter application (with a copy to all parties) to the Administrative Judge within ten days of receipt of the designation of the case to a non-commercial part. The determination of the Administrative Judge shall be final and subject to no further administrative review or appeal.

THIS PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED BY THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JANUARY 23, 2014.

THE CHIEF JUDGE'S TASK FORCE ON COMMERCIAL LITIGATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY



Report and Recommendations to the Chief Judge of the State of New York
June 2012

period of budgetary restriction. Further, the Commercial Division's Support Office has merged with other back offices, making support for the Division diluted and less accessible than in the past. The Task Force urges that this Support Office be revitalized with key personnel and moved back to its standalone status with its own office space.

III. PROCEDURAL REFORMS

Reforming the procedures of the Commercial Division is another way to reduce delay and eliminate unnecessary costs in commercial litigation in New York. In identifying these potential reforms, the Task Force focused specifically on the following objectives: facilitate prompt and cost-effective resolution of pretrial proceedings and expedited trial procedures; improve courtroom efficiency; consider the impact of the appellate process on litigants' consideration of the Commercial Division as a forum for their disputes; and enhance the use of technology tools to support the Commercial Division and Bar.

1. Earlier assignment of cases to the Commercial Division.

A hallmark of the Commercial Division has been its interactive, hands-on case management, which helps the Justices process cases more efficiently. Accordingly, the Task Force recognizes the importance of having a judicial officer involved as early in the case as possible. Yet many cases that end up in the Commercial Division do not reach a judge until discovery is well under way, even as late as a summary judgment motion. The Administrative Board should consider promulgating a new rule to modify the current selection mechanism for assignments to the Division. The rule would state that, within 90 days following service of the complaint, any party may seek assignment of the case to the Commercial Division. Failure to file an RJI with such a request by that time would preclude later assignment to the Division,

subject to a *sua sponte* determination by the judge to whom the case is assigned to transfer the case to the Commercial Division.

Among other benefits, early and continued judicial involvement will assist in streamlining discovery by facilitating prompt resolution of disputes and monitoring compliance with discovery obligations.

2. Adopt uniform procedure for more robust and timely expert disclosure.

For many years, commercial litigators have expressed concern about the C.P.L.R.'s limitations on expert disclosure.² In particular, there is a lack of predictability and efficiency that results from the requirement to disclose only limited information about an expert's qualifications and opinion, and the failure to impose deadlines by which expert disclosure must be made. These place the Commercial Division at a significant disadvantage when parties consider where to litigate their business disputes. Commercial Division cases often involve controversies where expert opinion is necessary to quantify valuation or damages, full and timely disclosure of which allows parties to assess the risks of trial and the benefits of potential settlement. Since the Commercial Division generally does not require the type of expert disclosure necessary for parties to undertake this analysis, parties who can control forum selection may choose to litigate in Delaware or the federal courts, both of which provide substantially more robust and timely expert discovery. Just as important, the absence of robust and timely disclosure of expert opinions contributes to the inefficiency of cases brought in New York and may delay resolution.

On April 26, 2012, the Office of Court Administration solicited public comment on two amendments to the Uniform Rules of the Commercial Division proposed by the New York State

Commercial and Federal Litigation Section. New York State Bar Association. A Proposal for Enhanced Expert Disclosure in the New York State Commercial Division (Feb. 7, 2011), available at http://www.nysba.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Commercial_and_Federal_Litigation_Home&ContentID=46334 &Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm.

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and with the advice and consent of the Administrative Board of the Courts, I hereby amend, effective September 2, 2014, sections 202.70(d)-(e) of the Uniform Rules for the Supreme and County Courts (Rules of Practice for the Commercial Division), relating to assignment and transfer of cases, to read as follows:

22 NYCRR § 202.70(d) Assignment to the Commercial Division

Within 90 days following service of the complaint, any party may seek assignment of a case to the Commercial Division by filing a A party seeking assignment of a case to the Commercial Division shall indicate on the Request for Judicial Intervention (RJI) the appropriate Nature of Action or Proceeding category and shall that attaches a completed Commercial Division RJI Addendum certifying that the case meets the jurisdictional requirements for Commercial Division assignment set forth in subdivisions (a), (b) and (c) of this section. Except as provided in subdivision (e) below, failure to file an RJI pursuant to this subdivision precludes a party from seeking assignment of the case to the Commercial Division.

(e) Transfer into the Commercial Division

If an RJI is filed within the 90-day period following service of the complaint and the a case is assigned to a noncommercial part because the filing party did not designate the case as "commercial" on the RJI, any other party may apply by letter application (with a copy to all parties) to the Administrative Judge, within ten days after receipt of a copy of the RJI, for a transfer of the case into the Commercial Division. Further, notwithstanding the time periods set forth in subdivisions (d) and (e) of this section, for good cause shown for the delay a party may seek the transfer of a case to the Commercial Division by letter application (with a copy to all parties) to the Administrative Judge. In addition, a non-Commercial Division justice to whom a case is assigned may sua sponte request the Administrative Judge to transfer a case that meets the jurisdictional requirements for Commercial Division assignment set forth in subdivisions (a), (b) and (c) of this section to the Commercial Division. The determinations of the Administrative Judge with respect to any letter applications or requests under this subdivision shall be final and subject to no further administrative review or appeal.

Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts

Dated: July 1, 2014

AO/117/14

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and with the advice and consent of the Administrative Board of the Courts, I hereby direct that the amendment of sections 202.70(d)-(e) of the Uniform Rules for the Supreme and County Courts (Rules of Practice for the Commercial Division) relating to assignment and transfer of cases, set forth in Administrative Order AO/117/14 and effective September 2, 2014, shall apply only to cases filed on or after that effective date. Assignment to the Commercial Division of cases filed prior to September 2, 2014, shall continue to be governed by rules and practices in effect on September 1, 2014.

Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts

Dated: August 6, 2014

AO/117a/14

REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL II	NTERVENTION For Court Clerk Use Only:	
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COURT, COUNTY OF		
Index No: Date Index I	Ssued: Judge Assigned	
Enter the complete case caption. Do not use et attach a caption rider sheet.	al or et ano. If more space is required,	
	Plaintiff(s)/Petitioner(s)	
-against-		
NATURE OF ACTION OR PROCEEDING: 0	Defendant(s)/Res	spondent(s
MATRIMONIAL	COMMERCIAL	
Contested	☐ Business Entity (including corporations, partnerships, LLCs, etc.)	
NOTE: For all Matrimonial actions where the parties have chi		
the age of 18, complete and attach the MATRIMONIAL RJI A	= meanance (unione meaner to a party; except around allow)	
For Uncontested Matrimonial actions, use RJI form UD-13.	UCC (including sales, negotiable instruments) Other Commercial:	
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☐ Breast Implant ☐ Environmental:	NOTE: For Commercial Division assignment requests [22 NYCRR § 202.70(d)], complete and attach the COMMERCIAL DIV RJI Addendo	
(specify)	REAL PROPERTY: How many properties does the application include?	
Medical, Dental, or Podiatric Malpractice	Condemnation	
Motor Vehicle	☐ Mortgage Foreclosure (specify): ☐ Residential ☐ Commer	rcial
Products Liability:(specify)	Property Address:	
Other Negligence:	NOTE: For Mortgage Foreclosure actions involving a one- to four-fam owner-occupied, residential property, or an owner-occupied	•
☐ Other Professional Malpractice:	condominium, complete and attach the FORECLOSURE RJI Addend Tax Certiorari - Section: Block: Lot:	
(specify)	Tax Foreclosure	
Other Tort:	☐ Other Real Property:	
(specify)	(specify)	
OTHER MATTERS	SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS	
Certificate of Incorporation/Dissolution [see NOTE under Con	· / ·	
☐ Emergency Medical Treatment☐ Habeas Corpus	☐ CPLR Article 78 (Body or Officer)☐ Election Law	
☐ Trabeas Corpus ☐ Local Court Appeal	☐ MHL Article 9.60 (Kendra's Law)	
☐ Mechanic's Lien	☐ MHL Article 10 (Sex Offender Confinement-Initial)	
☐ Name Change	MHL Article 10 (Sex Offender Confinement-Review)	
Pistol Permit Revocation Hearing	MHL Article 81 (Guardianship)	
Sale or Finance of Religious/Not-for-Profit Property	Other Mental Hygiene:(specify)	
☐ Other:(specify)	Other Special Proceeding:	
STATUS OF ACTION OR PROCEEDING:	nswer YES or NO for EVERY question AND enter additional information where indicated. YES NO	
Has a summons and complaint or summons w/notice been filed?	121	
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cancel o claim for equitable of acciding of period	oner decompactifi
ndant/Respondent's counterclaim(s) [brief description, inclu	uding claim for monetary relief]:
QUEST THAT THIS CASE BE ASSIGNED TO THE COMM	ERCIAL DIVISION. I CERTIFY THAT THE CASE
TS THE JURISDICTIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE CO	MMERCIAL DIVISION SET FORTH IN 22 NYCRR §
70(a), (b) AND (c).	
d:/	
	SIGNATURE
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PRINT OR TYPE NAME

Links to Fillable RJI Forms

EF-4 RJI Forms: Main Form (840)

https://www.nycourts.gov/forms/rji/UCS-840-fillable.pdf

EF-4 RJI Forms: General Addendum (840A)

https://www.nycourts.gov/forms/rji/UCS-840A-fillable.pdf

EF-4 RJI Forms: Commercial Division Addendum (840C)

https://www.nycourts.gov/forms/rji/UCS-840C-fillable.pdf