IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

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IN RE:

AU /2A (Rev. 8/82

> GENERAL ORDER REGARDING THE ASSIGNMENT OF CASES

: -General Order #91-5 G.O.A. #91-5

ORDER REGARDING THE ASSIGNMENT OF CASES

WHEREAS, a continuing need exists to provide for an orderly assignment of cases filed in this district, NOW THEREFORE, this <u>9th</u> day of <u>December</u>, 1991, this order regarding the assignment of cases shall supersede and replace General Order #89-6 dated May 5, 1989 and shall become effective for all cases filed on or after January 1, 1992:

- 1) All cases filed in the Erie Division of the Court shall be assigned to Judge Bentz;
- Cases filed in the Pittsburgh Division of the court will be promptly assigned on a random basis, except as otherwise noted, to all bankruptcy judges in the following manner:
 - A. The Clerk shall maintain an appropriate set of case assignment cards for Chapter 7 and 11 cases, consisting of 200 cards for each chapter, randomly shuffled, sealed on three sides, and marked Judge A for Judge Markovitz, Judge B for Judge Cosetti, Judge C for Judge Bentz, and Judge D for Judge Fitzgerald. Each such set of cards shall contain 53 cards for Judges Cosetti, Fitzgerald, and Markovitz, and 41 cards for Judge Bentz. When a Chapter 7 or 11 case is filed, a card shall be drawn from the appropriate set and have the case number of the new case placed on it. The Clerk will also note the assignment in an assignment book, indicating the case number, debtor's name and the date filed. When all the cards in a set

have been selected, a new set of assignment cards containing the same number of cards for each judge shall be started.

B. Judge Cosetti: All Chapter 12 and Chapter 13 cases filed by debtors residing in the counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland, hereinafter referred to as the "Pittsburgh counties", shall be assigned to Judge Cosetti.

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C. <u>Judge Bentz</u>: Judge Bentz shall receive case assignments in Pittsburgh Division cases only for Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 cases, and only from the Pittsburgh counties.

Judge Bentz shall be given credit for each case assigned to him in the Erie Division. The Erie Division of the Clerk's Office shall notify the Pittsburgh Division of the Clerk's Office when a new case is filed and report the case number and chapter under which the case is being filed. If a credit exists on Erie cases assigned, the card drawn for Judge Bentz's Pittsburgh assignments shall be so noted and the case assigned by drawing the next card.

 <u>Judge Markovitz</u>: All Chapter 12 and 13 cases filed by debtors residing in the counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset, and Clearfield, hereinafter referred to as the "Johnstown counties", shall be assigned to Judge Markovitz.

In addition to case assignments for Chapter 7 and 11 from the Pittsburgh counties, Judge Markovitz shall also receive all case assignments for Chapter 7 and 11 from the Johnstown counties. Judge Markovitz shall be given credit for each case assigned to him from the Johnstown county cases so that the ratio of case assignments in the Pittsburgh Division shall be maintained for all judges.

- E. Judge Fitzgerald: Judge Fitzgerald shall receive case assignments only from the Pittsburgh counties.
- F. Each Chapter 13 assigned to any judge shall be weighted so that a Chapter 13 case shall be equal to 1.5 Chapter 7 cases. This ratio will be prospectively applied on a monthly basis to

Chapter 7 cases normally heard in Pittsburgh (the Pittsburgh county cases). If, for example a judge has been assigned two Chapter 13 cases during the preceding month, this will mean that three Chapter 7 cases will be assigned to other judges by drawing new cards from the Chapter 7 set, thereby using the credits accrued as a result of the Chapter 13 assignments.

Joseph L. Cosetti Chief Bankruptcy Judge

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Warren W. Bentz U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

Bernard Markovitz U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

Judith K. Fitzgerald U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

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