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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

*IN RE: THE END OF THE PATENT PILOT PROGRAM AND THE CREATION OF A PATENT PROGRAM SPECIFIC TO THIS DISTRICT*

**GENERAL ORDER 2021-04**

The judges of this Court elected to participate in the national Patent Pilot Program established pursuant to Pub L. No. 111-349, 124 Stat. 3674. The District of Nevada began participating in the Patent Pilot Program on September 11, 2011. The Patent Pilot Program was scheduled to continue for ten years. The Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts recently announced that the Patent Pilot Program will not be renewed once it expires. Finding that it is in the public interest to continue the Patent Pilot Program after its expiration, the judges of the Court have decided to establish a permanent Patent Program ("Program") subject to the terms of this General Order.

A judge of this Court wishing to volunteer to participate in the Program will do so by notifying the Chief Judge. Chief Judge Miranda M. Du, Judge Gloria M. Navarro, and Judge Robert C. Jones are the designated Program judges for the District of Nevada. The Chief Judge has the authority to replace designated Program judges and/or add other volunteering judges.

Any judge who is not a designated Program judge may decline the assignment of a newly filed patent or plant variety protection case and must transfer it, within 30 days of the filing of the case, for random reassignment by the Clerk of Court to one of

1 the designated Program judges. Otherwise, that case will remain on the non-designated  
2 judge's docket and, if necessary, may be transferred or reassigned under the District's  
3 random civil case assignment system, but may not later be transferred to a designated  
4 Program judge under the Program. A case that is a re-filing of a previously dismissed  
5 case in this District that was not originally assigned to a designated Program judge is  
6 not eligible for transfer to a Program judge.

7 The Clerk of Court will continue to use the random program assignment  
8 procedure developed for the Patent Pilot Program for use in the reassignment of cases  
9 transferred to the designated Program judges. If necessary, the Chief Judge has the  
10 authority to implement a process for caseload equalization between the designated  
11 Program judges and the non-designated judges.

12 This General Order supersedes and replaces General Order 2011-03.

13 This General Order remains in effect indefinitely, unless and until withdrawn.

14 DATED THIS 30<sup>th</sup> Day of June 2021.

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18 MIRANDA M. DU, CHIEF JUDGE  
19 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR  
20 THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA