

(DIRECTIVE)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017

## SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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### CHIEF JUSTICE DIRECTIVE—NUMBER 5

By the authority vested in me as Chief Justice of the United States of America by the Efficient Function and General Duties Act of 2016, including the power to broadly provide for the “orderly administration of justice,”

I, CHIEF JUSTICE KOTWARRIOR, find that it is necessary to ensuring the timely and fair administration of justice that there be procedures for the reassignment of cases when a judge neglects their duty therein. Accordingly, I hereby order as follows:

**Section 1.** Reassignment. If seven days have passed on a case without any activity from the judge assigned thereto, an appropriately authorized officer may remove the judge from the case after consulting with, or attempting to consult with, them; the case shall then be reassigned according to the terms of *Chief Justice Directive 4*.

**Sec. 2.** Appropriately Authorized Officers. The Chief Justice shall designate appropriately authorized officers for the purposes of section 1 of this directive.

**Sec. 3.** Panels. Whenever he deems it appropriate, the chief district judge may direct that a case be heard by a panel of three judges. When he does so, he shall select the additional two district judges to sit on the panel responsible for that case with the one originally assigned.

CHIEF JUSTICE DIRECTIVE NO. 5

MANDATORY REPORT—CONGRESS & THE PRESIDENT

Pursuant to section 3 of the Efficient Function and General Duties Act of 2016, I am writing to inform you that I have taken action under the authority of the same.

1. I have established temporary procedures for the reassignment of cases which a judge has neglected their duty to act on.
2. I have determined that it is necessary to the orderly administration of justice that such a system exist.
3. I am obligated under the EFGDA to “see that the business of the several courts ... is attended to with proper dispatch” and “with regard to general liberties.” The issuance of this directive is consistent with that role.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Clara Menden Holmes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'C'.