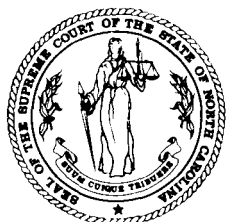


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AMENDMENT TO GENERAL RULES OF PRACTICE
FOR THE SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT COURTS

Pursuant to authority of N.C.G.S. § 7A-34, the General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts are hereby amended to add a new Rule 2.1, *Designation of Exceptional Civil Cases*, as follows:

RULE 2.1 DESIGNATION OF EXCEPTIONAL CIVIL CASES

- (a) The Chief Justice may designate any case or group of cases as "exceptional." A senior resident superior court judge, chief district court judge, or presiding superior court judge may ex mero motu, or on motion of any party, recommend to the Chief Justice that a case or cases be designated as exceptional.
- (b) Such recommendation may include special areas of expertise needed by the judge to be assigned and may include a list of recommended judges.
- (c) Such recommendation shall be communicated to the Chief Justice through the Administrative Office of the Courts.
- (d) Factors which may be considered in determining whether to make such designation include: the number and diverse interests of the parties; the amount and nature of anticipated pretrial discovery and motions; whether the parties voluntarily agree to waive venue for hearing pretrial motions; the complexity of the evidentiary matters and legal issues involved; whether it will promote the efficient administration of justice; and such other matters as the Chief Justice shall deem appropriate.
- (e) The Chief Justice may enter such orders as are appropriate for the pretrial, trial, and other disposition of such designated case or cases.

This amendment shall be effective on and after the fifth day of January, 1988, and shall be promulgated by publication in the Advance Sheets of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

By order of the Court in Conference, this 5th day of January, 1988.

WHICHARD, J.
For the Court