

Oakland County Circuit Court News

Business Court

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Oakland County Circuit Court Administrator

On July 1 the Circuit Court will launch its **Business Court** in compliance with **Public Act 333 of 2012**. The specialized docket will include business and commercial disputes that meet the requirements of MCL 600.8031 and 600.8035. The purpose of the Business Court is to establish best practices for the resolution of business and commercial disputes, improve the efficiency of the courts by subjecting business court cases to a specialized case management track, marshal technology to aid in the resolution of business court cases, and to create consistent and predictable outcomes in business and commercial disputes.

Judges Wendy Potts and James Alexander were appointed by the Supreme Court to preside over the Business Court. All cases that qualify for the Business Court will be assigned by blind draw to these judges beginning June 3. Attorneys and parties must give written notice when filing the initial complaint if their case qualifies for assignment to the Business Court. The statute defines the actions that qualify as Business Court cases.

We ask that persons filing Business Court cases complete the *Notice of Assignment to the Business Court* form that is found on the Business Court web page at <http://www.oakgov.com/courts/businesscourt>. All Business Court cases must be eFiled. Please attach the *Notice of Assignment to the Business Court* form when you eFile the initial complaint. If a case is not initially filed as a Business Court case and a responsive party believes the case meets the statutory requirements for assignment to the Business Court, or if the responsive party's counterclaim or any other modification of the action includes a business or commercial dispute, the responsive party should complete the *Notice of Assignment to the Business Court* form and attach it to the responsive pleading.

Please go to the Business Court web page for more information. There you will find the governing statute, a detailed notice of our Business Court's implementation – including the statutory definition of the actions that constitute Business Court cases, and a Laches article (to be published in the June edition) announcing the creation of the Business Court.