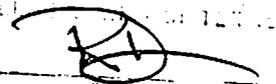


IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
EL PASO DIVISION

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BY   
CLERK

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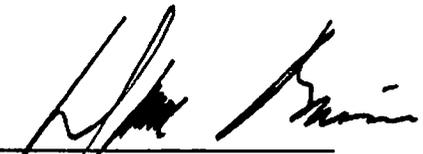
ORDER

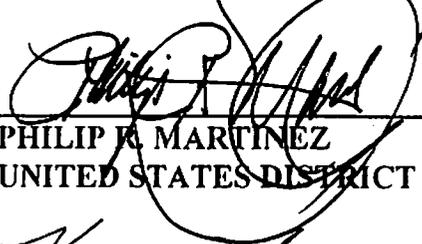
The Judges of the El Paso Division of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas desire to achieve greater efficiency, uniformity, and promote better administration in the handling and processing of forfeiture cases, both civil and criminal, filed in the El Paso Division. To accomplish this, the Judges of this Division have determined that it is more expeditious for one court to adjudicate all related forfeiture cases. Related forfeiture cases are *forfeiture cases that pertain to the same property or that arise out of the same transaction or series of transactions.*

Rather than have related forfeiture cases assigned to the different courts through a random court assignment as is the current procedure in unrelated matters, the District Clerk is directed to file the initial civil or criminal forfeiture case as it normally does on the basis of random court assignment and any subsequent, related forfeiture case is to be filed in the same court in which the first forfeiture case was filed. The District Clerk shall assign the subsequent related forfeiture the case number arising in numerical sequence on the date and occasion of the filing, in either the criminal or civil docket, as appropriate. In other words, the related forfeiture case will be given its own cause number in the normal course of filing but will be assigned to the judge of the court in which the initial case was filed. Thus, one judge will handle all related forfeiture cases, whether they be all criminal, all civil, or both criminal and civil.

To assist the District Clerk in making a determination whether a forfeiture case is related to one previously filed, the United States Attorneys office is directed to notify the District Clerk in writing of the case style, cause number and the name of the judge in whose court the initial forfeiture case was filed at the time it files its related forfeiture case. The United States Attorneys office is further directed to notify the District Clerk in writing of any additional related forfeiture cases that are contemporaneously or subsequently filed. Each notification submitted to the Clerk shall identify all the preceding related forfeiture cases filed by case style and cause number.

SIGNED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2006.

  
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DAVID BRIONES  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

  
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PHILIP R. MARTINEZ  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KATHLEEN CARDONE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
FRANK MONTALVO  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE