

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

ORDER

Acting in accordance with Article V, §§ 1 and 5 of the Louisiana Constitution, and the inherent power of this Court, and considering the need to amend La. S. Ct. Rule XXIII, §29(b),

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XXIII, Section 29(b) be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 29. Hearing Officers.

* * *

(b) **Random Allotment and Venue.** From the hearing officer designees of the court, the commission shall select a hearing officer for each case by random allotment to conduct hearings pursuant to sections five through nine and eleven of this rule. The random allotment procedure shall not, however, include any designee from the supreme court district where the respondent judge presides. Furthermore, in order to help insure that the hearing officers receive an equivalent number of cases, any designated hearing officer to whom a case has been randomly allotted shall not be included in the next four case allotments in which the hearing officer is eligible to serve. All proceedings shall be conducted in New Orleans unless all parties agree to convene the hearing officer proceeding elsewhere. When proceedings are convened outside of New Orleans at the request of the respondent judge, all hard costs of the proceedings, including the travel expenses of the commission staff, shall be reimbursed to the commission by the respondent judge.

This amendment shall become effective upon signing and shall remain in full force and effect through October 31, 2009, at which time this rule change shall terminate, unless extended through future Order of the Court.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this _____ day of _____, 2007.

FOR THE COURT:

Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., Chief Justice