



STATE OF NEW YORK
UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
SUPREME COURT, CIVIL BRANCH
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LAWRENCE K. MARKS
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HON. PETER H. MOULTON
Administrative Judge for Civil Matters
First Judicial District

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

On February 5, 2016, a crane collapse occurred in the vicinity of the intersection of Worth Street and Hudson Street in Manhattan. A number of lawsuits have been commenced in the Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County seeking damages that are alleged to arise out of or relate to this incident. The undersigned has been provided with a listing of three such actions to date, which are brought against 60 Hudson Owner LLC, the City of New York, and various other parties. A copy of this listing is annexed to this Order.

All of the matters that have been brought to the attention of the undersigned are pending in this court. Uniform Rule 202.69 applies when related actions are pending in more than one judicial district. Subd. (a) of the Rule. As such, the actions that have been commenced in this court to date are not matters for the Litigation Coordinating Panel under that Rule. When multiple related actions are pending in this court only, the Administrative Judge of this court has the authority to direct that all such actions be assigned to one Justice of this court for all purposes if doing so would be in the interests of efficiency and expedition, convenience for the parties, judicial economy, and the avoidance of duplicative rulings.

Plainly, it makes sense to assign the cases referenced in this Order and any other related ones pending in this court, now or hereafter, to a single Justice for all purposes. The cases arise out of and relate to a single discrete event. Common discovery will take place in these cases. It would clearly be inefficient, costly, and likely productive of delay were these cases to be assigned at random to different Justices. Doing that would burden the Justices unnecessarily and create the risk of conflicting rulings. With a single Justice assigned, discovery can be tailored to the needs of all cases and various proceedings can occur once rather than many times. Motion practice and other matters in these cases can be addressed in a coherent and organized manner. Time and expense can be saved for all concerned.

Although, as noted, to date there are only three pending cases listed on the appendix annexed to this Order, it is possible that other related actions may hereafter be commenced in this court. As such, it is appropriate to issue this Order to ensure that all related actions

be assigned to one Justice for all purposes.

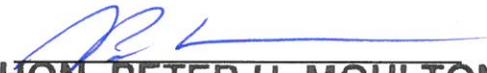
Accordingly, by the authority vested in me as Administrative Judge of this court, I hereby order as follows:

(1) The Clerk of the back office in which an RJI is filed shall assign to Justice Debra James (IAS Part 59) for all purposes all cases that may be pending in this court at present but that are not listed on the attached appendix, and all cases that are commenced in this court hereafter, in which the plaintiff seeks damages for injury to property, lost profits, or other injuries arising out of or related to the crane collapse on February 5, 2016 described above.

(2) If there are any related actions pending in this court and assigned to a Justice already that are not listed on the appendix, counsel shall promptly advise the Clerk of the General Clerk's Office of this fact and provide to the Clerk a copy of this Administrative Order, and the Clerk shall reassign those actions to Justice James. Attorneys who have filed or hereafter file such actions in this court shall file an RJI therein as promptly as is practicable. A copy of this Order shall be annexed to each such RJI. Upon the filing of the RJI, the Clerk shall assign each such case to Justice James.

(3) The Clerk shall reassign and assign cases to Justice James in accordance herewith.

Dated: September 16, 2016


HON. PETER H. MOULTON
Administrative Judge **J.S.C.**

APPENDIX

WORTH STREET CRANE COLLAPSE

- *Rebecca Wicks, as Administrator of the Estate of David Wicks -v.- 60 Hudson Owner LLC, et. al.,* Index Number 155164/2016
- *Thomas O'Brien -v.- 60 Hudson Owner LLC, et. al,* Index Number 155302/2016
- *Julia Cheiffetz -v.- 60 Hudson Owner LLC, et. al.,* Index Number 155491/2016