

Removal Procedure after 01/01/06

A Notice of Designation must be filed for a case to be assigned to the Business Court as a mandatory complex business case.

Requirements for filing the Notice of Designation:

- Timing:
 - Plaintiff (or 3d Party Plaintiff) → within 30 days of filing of complaint
 - Intervening Party (rare) → simultaneously with motion to intervene
 - Anyone else (including defendant) → within 30 days of being served with initial pleading seeking relief against that party (usually the complaint)
- Contents:
 - Must clearly state the basis for the designation as “mandatory complex business”
 - Certificate on behalf of the party seeking removal that the case satisfies the criteria for a mandatory complex business case.
 - A “Mandatory Complex Business Case” contains a material issue relating to one of the following areas of law:
 - law of corporations
 - securities law
 - antitrust law
 - state trademark and unfair competition law
 - intellectual property law
 - technology (internet, electronic commerce, biotechnology)
- Must be filed with/served on:
 - Superior Court in county where action was filed
 - All opposing parties or counsel
 - Chief Special Superior Court Judge for Complex Business Cases (Judge Tennille)
 - by email to info@ncbusinesscourt.net or jholmes@ncbusinesscourt.net
 - Chief Justice of Supreme Court (by email or fax)
 - by email to David.F.Hoke@nccourts.org
 - or by fax to 919 831-5735
- Filing Fee (paid upon assignment) – additional non-refundable \$200 filing fee to be paid to Clerk of Court where action was filed by the party or parties filing the Notice of Designation. Note that this filing fee is only applicable to mandatory complex business cases.

NOTE: The North Carolina Legislature has increased the fee for removing cases to the Business Court. Effective September 1, 2009, the fee will be \$1,000.00. Counsel are reminded that the fee is payable to the Clerk of Court in the County in which the case is pending.

Once the Notice of Designation is filed, the case is automatically and immediately in the Business Court until it is either resolved or its designation is denied after being opposed. All motions, etc. will be heard in the Business Court.

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Opposing the designation:

- Who → Any party may oppose the designation
- Timing → must file opposition with the Business Court within 30 days of Notice of Designation
- Who decides → Chief Business Court Judge (Judge Tennille)
- Appeal → that decision may be appealed to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Once assigned:

- Chief Special Superior Court Judge for Complex Business Cases (Judge Tennille) determines which Business Court Judge will handle the case
- All proceedings will be before the Business Court until the case is resolved or its designation is denied after being opposed

Old Rules still apply to:

- 2.1 cases
- Cases in which a party seeking removal has not met the timing requirements