



# *Judicial Management of Complex Criminal Cases*

**Hon. Timothy Burgess**  
**Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska**



CHAT #1  
TYPE YOUR ANSWER IN THE CHAT BOX

*What challenges do judges face when managing human trafficking cases?*



## *What Makes a Criminal Case Complex?*

- Difficult or novel legal issues
- Multiple defendants
- Multiple jurisdictions
- Multiple witnesses
- Many documents
- Electronic and forensic evidence
- High profile



**COMPLEX CRIMINAL CASES**

*Multiple Defendants*



**COMPLEX CRIMINAL CASES**

*Multiple Jurisdictions*



## COMPLEX CRIMINAL CASES

# *Multiple Witnesses*

- From other countries
- Remote testimony



Image Courtesy: Veritext Legal Solutions



**COMPLEX CRIMINAL CASES**

*Many Documents*



COMPLEX CRIMINAL CASES

*Digital and  
Forensic  
Evidence*





## COMPLEX CRIMINAL CASES

### *High Profile*

- Public interest/controversy
- Intense media interest
- Security concerns



COMPLEX CRIMINAL CASES

*Difficult Lawyers*



## *Goals and Objectives of Judicial Case Management*

- Enable fair, timely, and effective justice
- Eliminate/reduce delay
- Eliminate/reduce excessive expense
- Manage judicial workload



# *Elements of Case Management*

- Early and consistent judicial involvement
- Case management conferences
- Firm deadlines for specific tasks
- Clarification of factual and legal issues
- Sanctions if case management orders are violated
- Court technologies



CASE MANAGEMENT TOOLS

*Judicial Involvement*



CHAT #2

TYPE YOUR ANSWER IN THE CHAT BOX

*In India, what tools and strategies can judges use to manage criminal cases?*

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**CASE MANAGEMENT TOOLS**

*Case Management  
Conferences*



## CASE MANAGEMENT TOOLS

# *Scheduling & Deadlines*





**CASE MANAGEMENT TOOLS**

*Clarify Legal &  
Procedural Issues*



## CASE MANAGEMENT TOOLS

### *Sanctions*

- Monetary
- Evidence preclusion
- Issue preclusion
- Dismissal or default



**CHAT #3**  
**TYPE YOUR ANSWER IN THE CHAT BOX**

*How can a judge work with court staff to facilitate case management?*



## CASE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### *Court Technology*

- Electronic filing
- Videoconferencing
- Software to facilitate legal research
- Courtroom technologies to facilitate trial process and presentation of evidence



**CASE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

*Court Security*



## *Small Group Activity*

You will be divided into 6 groups. Each group will review the Human Trafficking Fact Pattern and complete the assigned task.

- **Group 1 & 2:** Case Management Conference
- **Groups 3 & 4:** Expert Testimony
- **Group 5 & 6:** Media & Security Plans

**PREPARATION TIME: 15 minutes**

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Designate spokesperson to report to large group
- Review assigned task
- Review Fact Pattern
- Discuss response to the assignment
- Prepare 3-minute report on group's results and reasoning



# Small Group Discussion Prompts

## **Groups 1 & 2: Case Management Conference**

You have notified the prosecution and defense counsel that you will hold a case management conference in three weeks.

*What topics will you cover at this meeting?*

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## **Groups 3 & 4 : Expert Testimony**

The trial will begin in 6 months. You have scheduled another case conference to address evidentiary issues, including proposed expert testimony of a psychologist regarding the impact of trauma on trafficking survivors.

*What guidelines will you set for the of presentation of this evidence?*

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## **Groups 5 & 6: Media & Security Plan**

You have scheduled a final pretrial conference. The case has received extensive media coverage and a threat has been made against Prishna and Saanvi, who are scheduled to testify.

*Outline the media and security plans you will put in place during the trial.*



# *Group Reports*





*"[The] ordinary administration of criminal and civil justice...  
contributes, more than any other circumstance, to  
impressing upon the minds of the people affection,  
esteem, and reverence toward government."*

**ALEXANDER HAMILTON, *FEDERALIST NO. 17***





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