

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

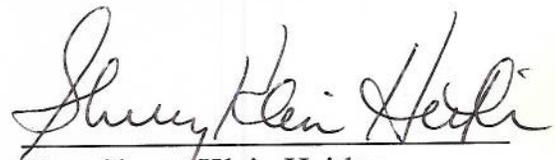
Pursuant to the authority vested in me as Administrative Judge of this court, I hereby issue this Administrative Order.

A number of cases have been filed in this court that arise out of Hurricane Sandy. In several such actions, the complaints assert damages due to alleged negligence by the defendant building owner or garage or storage company in failing adequately to secure premises or to take other appropriate action in advance of and/or subsequent to the hurricane. Counsel for plaintiffs have requested that two such actions (*Bobrow v. Ocean Prime, LLC*, Index No. 150612/2013 and *Clark v. Quik Park Tribeca II, LLC*, Index No. 151476/2013) be transferred to the Justice to whom another (*Cashwell v. 2 Gold, L.L.C.*, Index No. 158155/2012) is assigned. Some defendants have opposed this request.

At issue in this request are only a few cases. They have been pending for between almost ten months and more than a year. The judicial involvement in these matters thus far varies, but it appears that there has been at least some involvement and some motions are pending. One of the matters proposed for transfer is assigned to a Justice who has been assigned to another, similar case, which has been marked disposed but with a motion pending. It does not appear to be advisable at this point to transfer these cases to a single Justice. Doing so would appear to risk some loss from the perspective of judicial economy. The request to direct transfer of the two cases is denied.

Plaintiffs' counsel asserts that other similar cases will be brought by them in the future. There are also pending some cases having to do with commercial leases at properties affected by the storm. At some point, perhaps in the wake of the filing of such matters, it may become beneficial on balance to assign all new Hurricane Sandy cases, or a distinct group of Sandy cases (perhaps excluding any that may have been assigned to the Commercial Division) to a single Justice. The court will monitor the situation and will entertain a future request to assign such cases to one Justice in the interests of efficiency, economy, and orderly procedure.

Dated: New York, New York
December 23, 2013


Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler