

RULE 182. CASES IN WHICH THE SPECIAL TRIAL JUDGE IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THE DECISION

Except as otherwise directed by the Chief Judge, the following procedure shall be observed in small tax cases (as defined in Rule 170); in cases where neither the amount of the deficiency placed in dispute (within the meaning of Code section 7463), nor the amount of any claimed overpayment, exceeds \$50,000; in declaratory judgment actions; in lien and levy actions; and in whistleblower actions:

(a) Small Tax Cases: Except in cases where findings of fact or opinion are stated orally pursuant to Rule 152, a Special Trial Judge who conducts the trial of a small tax case shall, as soon after such trial as shall be practicable, prepare a summary of the facts and reasons for the proposed disposition of the case, which then shall be submitted promptly to the Chief Judge, or, if the Chief Judge shall so direct, to a Judge or Division of the Court.

(b) Cases Involving \$50,000 or Less: Except in cases where findings of fact or opinion are stated orally pursuant to Rule 152, a Special Trial Judge who conducts the trial of a case (other than a small tax case) where neither the amount of the deficiency placed in dispute (within the meaning of Code section 7463), nor the amount of any claimed overpayment, exceeds \$50,000 shall, as soon after such trial as shall be practicable, prepare proposed findings of fact and opinion, which shall then be submitted promptly to the Chief Judge.

(c) Declaratory Judgment, Lien and Levy, and Whistleblower Actions: A Special Trial Judge who conducts the trial of a declaratory judgment action or, except in cases where findings of fact or opinion are stated orally pursuant to Rule 152, a lien or levy or a whistleblower action, or to whom such a case is submitted for decision, shall, as soon after such trial or submission as shall be practicable, prepare proposed findings of fact and opinion, which shall then be submitted promptly to the Chief Judge.

(d) Decision: The Chief Judge may authorize the Special Trial Judge to make the decision of the Court in any small tax case (as defined in Rule 170); in any case where neither the amount of the deficiency placed in dispute (within the meaning of Code section 7463), nor the amount of any claimed overpayment, exceeds \$50,000; in any declaratory

judgment action; in any lien or levy action; and in any whistleblower action, subject to such conditions and review as the Chief Judge may provide.

(e) Procedure in Event of Assignment to a Judge:

In the event the Chief Judge assigns a case (other than a small tax case) to a Judge to prepare a report in accordance with Code section 7460 and to make the decision of the Court, the proposed findings of fact and opinion previously submitted to the Chief Judge shall be filed as the Special Trial Judge's recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law. Thereafter, the procedures of Rule 183(b), (c), and (d) shall apply.