

FILED \_\_\_\_\_ ENTERED \_\_\_\_\_  
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JUN 11 1999

AT SEATTLE  
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
DEPUTY  
BY *[Signature]*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

DON VAN NGUYEN, et al.,  
Plaintiffs,

v.

AMERICAN SEAFOODS COMPANY,  
Defendant.

NO. C98-525WD

ORDER ON DEFENDANT'S  
MOTION TO BIFURCATE

DON VAN NGUYEN, et al.,  
Plaintiffs,

v.

AMERICAN SEAFOODS COMPANY and the  
F/T OCEAN ROVER,  
Defendants.

NO. C98-1099WD

Defendant American Seafoods Company has moved pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(b) to bifurcate liability and damages at the trial of this case. The rule provides that separate trials of issues may be ordered "to avoid prejudice" or when "conducive to expedition and economy." The present motion is granted in part and denied in part as follows: The liability and compensatory damages issues will be tried together and a verdict rendered. If the jury's answers to special interrogatories

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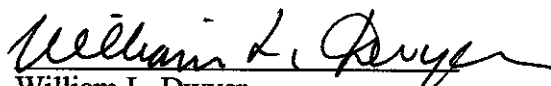
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1 show entitlement to punitive damages, additional evidence may then be offered, before the same jury,  
2 relevant to the amount of punitive damages to be awarded. Thus, evidence concerning the size,  
3 status, and wealth of defendant will not be admitted during the liability-compensatory damages phase  
4 of the trial.

5 The clerk is directed to send copies of this order to all counsel of record.

6 Dated: June 10, 1999.

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9 William L. Dwyer  
United States District Judge