

defendant, and, if proven, will result in unique damage claims. The defendants are not properly joined under Rule 20.

Moreover, there are practical reasons supporting severing the claims against the defendants. The filing fees for the recent four cases totaled \$600, whereas the filing fees for 254 separate cases would have been \$38,100. That is a considerable loss of revenue to the public coffers. Moreover, the closing of one 151-defendant case is treated as a single case for statistical purposes, when in fact each defendant should be treated as a single case for such purposes, given that the claim against each defendant is separate.

Because these four suits are in actuality 254 separate lawsuits, the Court *sua sponte* will dismiss without prejudice all but the first defendant in each case. Plaintiffs will be permitted to refile against the other defendants separately, upon the payment of the appropriate filing fee. In addition, Plaintiffs are ordered to file any future cases of this nature against one defendant at a time, and may not join defendants for their convenience.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 17th day of November, 2004.



SAM SPARKS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



LEE YEAKEL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE