

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

IN RE:  
ASSIGNMENT OF CASES FILED IN  
THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

GENERAL ORDER  
NUMBER 40

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The Clerk of Court will assign cases to the two sections of this Court in the following manner:

1. There shall be a separate block of assignment cards for each of the categories set forth below:
  - 10-10 Blue a. Habeas Corpus and other post conviction petitions; Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255; Bond Forfeiture.
  - 10-10 White b. Civil Rights Cases; and cases requiring immediate action by the Court; such as TRO; Injunction; orders to show cause; etc.
  - 5-5 Salmon c. Antitrust.
  - 5-5 Pink d. Patent, Trademark and Copyright.
  - 10-10 Yellow e. All others.
2. In each block the Clerk shall place a number of cards containing a section of Court. The number of cards for each Judge or section shall be equal.
3. Before placement in the block, the cards for each category shall be thoroughly shuffled by the Clerk so that the sequence of the Judges' sections in each block will be random and secret.
4. The various blocks of cards shall be kept in a box appropriately marked, which when not in use, shall be locked and safely kept by the Clerk.
5. When the initial paper is presented and given the proper number the Clerk shall draw one card at random from the appropriate block. The Clerk shall then assign the case to the Judge whose section is stamped on the card. The assignment shall be by stamping on the paper presented for filing the section shown on the card that was randomly pulled from the block. All subsequent papers filed in the action will bear the case number assigned and the section assigned.
6. When a block of cards for any category has been emptied or nearly emptied, the block shall be replenished with cards in the same manner as provided for original placement.
7. Credit shall be given to the section to whom a case is assigned outside these procedures, e.g., assignment of a related case.
8. Cases may be transferred from one Section to another only upon the concurrence of the Transferor and Transferee Judges.

July 20 1979  
Date

SO ORDERED:  
E. Gordon West  
E. Gordon West  
Chief Judge  
Middle District of Louisiana