

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

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

REVISION OF
GENERAL ORDER
NUMBER 92-1

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In order to assure random assignment of cases to the fullest extent practicable, General Order Number 40 and Number 48 are hereby amended as follows:

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:
 - a. Habeas corpus and other post conviction petitions, State and Federal; 1983 prisoner petitions; bond forfeiture
 - b. Civil rights cases, excluding prisoner petitions and cases requiring immediate action by the Court such as TRO, injunctions, orders to show case, etc.
 - c. Antitrust
 - d. Patent, trademark, and copyright
 - e. Criminal matters
 - f. All others

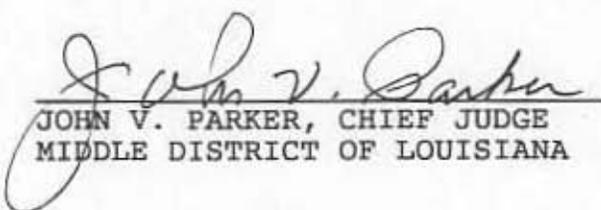
2. In each block the Clerk shall place a number of cards containing a section of Court. The number of cards for each section shall be equal.
3. Before placement in the block, the cards for each category shall be thoroughly shuffled by the Clerk so that the sequence of the Judges' sections in each block 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.

When a Judge of the Court disqualifies himself in a pending case, a card for that section shall be added to the block of assignment of cards - one card for each disqualification. When a Judge of the Court is automatically disqualified in a case at the time it is filed, for example, where a close relative of a Judge is a partner in the law firm which represents the plaintiff, a card shall nevertheless be drawn for that case. In the event the random drawing assigns the case to the Judge who is disqualified, the Clerk shall assign the case to the other section. The card of the disqualified section shall be returned to the block of cards and a card of the other section shall be removed from the block.

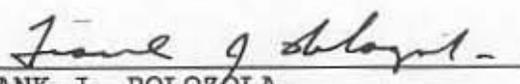
8. Except for the authority of the Chief Judge, cases may be transferred from one section to another only upon the concurrence of the transferor and the transferee Judges.
9. All Orders or General Orders to the contrary are hereby vacated and set aside.

SO ORDERED.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, January 2, 1992.



JOHN V. PARKER, CHIEF JUDGE
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA



FRANK J. POLOZOLA,
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE