

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

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U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
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IN RE:

ASSIGNMENT OF CASES FILED IN  
THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

GENERAL ORDER  
NO. 98-1

In order to assure random assignment of cases to the fullest extent practicable, General Order Number 93-2 is hereby amended as follows:

The Clerk of Court shall assign cases in the following manner using the Automated Case Assignment System.

Automated Case Assignment System

1. There shall be a separate section described as a "card deck" established within the system for each of the categories set forth below in assigning cases to each active District Judge on an equal basis:

-Habeas/Prisoner/Title 28 - Habeas Corpus, Prisoner and other post-conviction petitions, state and federal, Title 28 U.S.C. § 2255; and Bond Forfeiture.

-Civil Rights/TRO/Injunction - Civil Rights cases, excluding prisoner petitions; cases requiring immediate action such as TRO's, injunctions, orders to show cause, ship seizures, etc.

-Antitrust -

-Patent/Trademark/Copyright -

-Criminal Cases -

-All Other Cases -

ACTION	INITIALS	DOCKET #
PROCESSED		
CHARGED		

2. The categories of the card decks for the assignment of cases to Magistrate Judges on an equal basis shall be as follows:

- Habeas/Prisoner/Title 28/U.S.C. § 2255 - Same criteria as described above for District Judges.

- Social Security - Social Security cases, Nos. 861-865.

- Criminal Cases -

- Magistrate Judge Cases - Pre-Indictment actions; petty offenses.

- All Other Cases -

3. When the initial paper is presented and given the proper number, the clerk will select the menu option to randomly assign a District Judge from the appropriate District Judge card deck and a Magistrate Judge shall be assigned from the appropriate Magistrate Judge card deck. The clerk will stamp the initial paper with the District Judge section. All subsequent papers filed in the action will bear the case number assigned and the section assigned.
4. The Automated Case Assignment System will automatically regenerate the appropriate number of cards when the deck is depleted.
5. Credit shall be given to the Judge to whom a case is assigned outside of these procedures.

When a Judge of the court is recused in a pending case, the clerk will select the reassignment option. The system will automatically replace the card of the REASSIGNED FROM Judge.

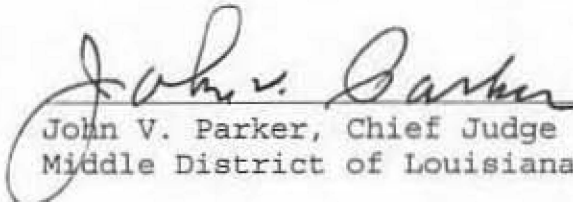
When a Judge of the court is automatically recused in a case at the time it is filed, a random assignment will nevertheless be made for that case. In the event the random drawing assigns the case to the Judge who is recused, the clerk shall use the system reassignment option.

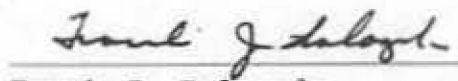
6. Except for the authority of the Chief Judge, cases may be transferred from one section to another only upon the concurrence of the transferor and the transferee Judges.

7. All Orders or General Orders to the contrary are hereby vacated and set aside.

SO ORDERED.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 12, 1998.

  
John V. Parker, Chief Judge  
Middle District of Louisiana

  
Frank J. Polozola  
United States District Judge