

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

FILED
U.S. DIST. COURT
MIDDLE DIST. OF LA.

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IN RE:

SIGN _____
BY DEPUTY CLERK

ASSIGNMENT OF CASES FILED IN
THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

GENERAL ORDER
NUMBER 00-2

In order to ensure the random assignment of cases to the fullest extent possible in a fair and equitable manner, the Clerk of Court shall assign all cases filed on and after June 1, 2000 in the following manner until further orders of this Court.

I. Sections of Court

- A. The sections of court shall be designated as follows:

Section A
Section B
Section C
Section D

- B. Assignment of Cases

The Clerk of Court shall randomly assign cases in the following percentages:

Section A	15%
Section B	15%
Section C	35%
Section D	35%

- C. Current Caseload

All cases pending as of June 1, 2000 shall be equally allotted among the active and senior judges in accordance with a separate order to be issued by the Court.

II Automated Case Assignment System

- A. 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 and senior district judge in the proportions set forth in paragraph IA.

1. **Habeas/Prisoner/Title 28** - Habeas Corpus, Prisoner and other post-conviction petitions, state and

federal, Title 28 U.S.C. § 2255; and Bond Forfeiture.

2. **Civil Rights/Temporary Restraining Orders and Requests for Injunction, Ship Seizures** - Civil Rights cases, excluding prisoner petitions; cases requiring immediate action such as requests for temporary restraining orders, injunction orders, and ship seizures.
3. **Antitrust**
4. **Patent/Trademark/Copyright**
5. **Criminal Cases**
6. **All Other Cases**

B. The categories of the card decks for the assignment of cases to magistrate judges on an equal basis shall be as follows:

1. **Habeas/Prisoner/Title 28 U.S.C. § 2255** - Same criteria as described above for district judges.
2. **Social Security** - Social Security cases, Nature of Suit Nos. 861-865.
3. **Criminal Cases**
4. **Magistrate Judge Cases** - Pre-Indictment actions; petty offenses.
5. **All Other Cases**

II Assignment Procedures

- A. 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.
- B. The Automated Case Assignment System will automatically regenerate the appropriate number of cards when the deck is depleted.

- C. Credit shall be given to the judge to whom a case is assigned outside of these procedures.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. In the interest of justice and judicial economy, the Court may by en banc order change percentages of cases assigned to each section, reallocate pending cases and/or designate a case or cases to be handled by a particular section.

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

SO ORDERED.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, June 6, 2000.

Frank J. Polozola

FRANK J. POLOZOLA, CHIEF JUDGE
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

Ralph E. Tyson
RALPH E. TYSON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

James J. Brady
JAMES J. BRADY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

John V. Parker
JOHN V. PARKER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE