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BONNIE HACKLER
Clerk, U.S. District Court

By_____
Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

IN RE: THE DIVISION OF CIVIL AND) GENERAL ORDER 26-01
CRIMINAL CASES)
)

GENERAL ORDER

With respect to the division of cases before the judges of this district, effective February 2, 2026, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Clerk of Court shall divide all civil cases into four categories for the random assignment of cases to the judges of this district as follows:

    Category 1. Actions arising under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241 and 2254, pro se prisoner cases, appeals from the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, and any other action requesting preliminary injunctive relief:

Judge Ronald A. White	20 cases in 30
Judge John F. Heil, III	10 cases in 30

    Category 2. All death penalty actions:

Judge John F. Heil, III	All cases

    Category 3. All social security cases:

Magistrate Judge Gerald L. Jackson	10 cases in 30
Magistrate Judge Jason A. Robertson	10 cases in 30
Magistrate Judge D. Edward Snow	10 cases in 30

    Category 4. All other civil actions:

Magistrate Judge Gerald L. Jackson	10 cases in 30
Magistrate Judge Jason A. Robertson	10 cases in 30
Magistrate Judge D. Edward Snow	10 cases in 30

When companion cases are filed, *i.e.*, cases involving the same transaction regardless of parties, at first knowledge of such fact, the affected judges shall be notified. In the event the judges mutually agree as to the companion nature of the actions and the transfer of same, the cases shall be assigned or transferred to the judge receiving the lowest case number.

2.   With respect to opt-out ("District Court Judge Option") cases from the magistrate judges' original draw under Categories 3 and 4, the Clerk of Court is directed to randomly assign cases to the District Judges as follows[1]:

Judge John F. Heil, III   All cases

Note: Conflict cases will go to Senior District Judge Ronald A. White.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Clerk of Court is directed to randomly assign criminal cases to the district judges as follows:

Judge Ronald A. White   20 cases in 30
Judge John F. Heil, III   10 cases in 30

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Magistrate Gerald L. Jackson, Jason A. Robertson, and D. Edward Snow call all Grand Jury sessions and conduct all initial appearances and arraignments in criminal cases.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following exceptions shall be made to the random assignment of cases indicated herein:

1. The Court directs that the Clerk of Court assign civil forfeiture cases to the judge assigned to the underlying criminal case, where applicable.

2. The Court directs that the Clerk assign civil forfeiture cases created due to the filing of a 2255 motion to vacate, set aside, or correct sentence to the judge assigned to the underlying criminal case.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this general order supersedes and replaces the Court's General Order 25-10 and all other orders regarding the division of cases in this district. Consent procedures set forth in Misc. Oder 03-08 (attached) remain in effect.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 2nd day of February, 2026.

_____
JOHN F. HEIL, III
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

_____

[1] The previously assigned magistrate judge will be directly assigned to the case as the referral judge.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF   )
)   Misc. Order No. 03-08
COURT PROCEDURES   )

ORDER
DIVISION OF CIVIL CASES

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED effective October 16, 2003:

The Clerk of the Court shall assign one of each four civil actions, excluding cases arising under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241 and 2254, social security appeals, pro se prisoner cases, appeals from Bankruptcy Court, and any action requesting preliminary injunctive relief, to a United States Magistrate Judge by random selection. The United States Magistrate Judges will conduct all proceedings, including trial of a case.

In the event an action is assigned to a United States Magistrate Judge, consent forms for all parties are stamped with the case number and given to the individual who is filing the case. On these forms consent may be given to the jurisdiction of a United States Magistrate Judge by signing the consent section of the form. If all parties consent, the case will remain with a United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(1).

If any party chooses the United States District Court Judge option, the case will be re-assigned to a United States District Judge by random selection. To elect to have the case heard before a United States District Judge, the "District Court Judge Option" section of the consent form must be completed.

The party filing the case is responsible for serving all parties with the consent forms. Additionally, the party filing the case is required to file with the court a certificate of service reflecting the names and addresses of the parties served with the consent forms. Each party shall execute and present to the court within twenty (20) days after service either a written consent to the exercise of authority by a magistrate judge under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), OR a written election to have the action re-assigned to a United States District Judge.

Consent to a United States Magistrate Judge's authority does not constitute a waiver of any jurisdictional defense. Appeal of a judgment entered by a United States Magistrate Judge shall be made to the Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

This order shall be interpreted and enforced so as to protect the voluntariness of the parties' consent. No official of this court shall take any action that implies the parties are not free to withhold consent.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 15th day of October 2003.

JAMES H. PAYNE
Chief United States District Judge