

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

**GENERAL ORDER ASSIGNING CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ACTIONS**

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 137 and the agreement of the judges affected hereby, it is ORDERED that all civil and criminal cases filed shall be assigned to individual judges of this district in the proportions listed below:

<b>DISTRICT JUDGE</b>	<b>CASELOAD</b>
CHIEF JUDGE LEONARD DAVIS	Tyler Civil = 25% Tyler Habeas = 50% Tyler Criminal = 50%
JUDGE RICHARD A. SCHELL	Sherman Civil = 20% Sherman Habeas = 50% Sherman Criminal = 50%
JUDGE RON CLARK	Beaumont Civil = 15% Beaumont Patent = 100% Beaumont Habeas = 30% Beaumont Criminal = 32.5% Sherman Civil = 25% Sherman Habeas = 50% Lufkin Civil = 33% Lufkin Habeas = 100% Lufkin Patent = 100% Lufkin Criminal = 100%
JUDGE MARCIA CRONE	Beaumont Civil = 40% Beaumont Habeas = 40% Beaumont Criminal = 37.5% Sherman Criminal = 50% Beaumont, Lufkin and Sherman Capital Murder and Murder Cases = 100%

JUDGE MICHAEL SCHNEIDER	Tyler Civil = 25% Tyler Habeas = 50% Tyler Criminal = 50% Texarkana Civil = 50% Texarkana Habeas = 100% Texarkana Criminal = 100%
JUDGE J. RODNEY GILSTRAP	Marshall Civil and Criminal = 100%
JUDGE THAD HEARTFIELD	Beaumont Civil = 15% Beaumont Habeas = 30% Beaumont Criminal = 30%
MAGISTRATE JUDGE JOHN LOVE	Tyler Civil Non-Habeas = 25%
MAGISTRATE JUDGE NICOLE MITCHELL	Tyler Civil Non-Habeas = 25%
MAGISTRATE JUDGE KEITH GIBLIN	Beaumont Civil Non-Habeas = 15% Lufkin Civil Non-Habeas = 33%
MAGISTRATE JUDGE ZACK HAWTHORN	Beaumont Civil Non-Habeas = 15% Lufkin Civil Non-Habeas = 34%
MAGISTRATE JUDGE CAROLINE CRAVEN	Texarkana Civil Non-Habeas = 50%
MAGISTRATE JUDGE DON BUSH	Sherman Civil Non-Habeas = 30%
MAGISTRATE JUDGE AMOS MAZZANT	Sherman Civil Non-Habeas = 25%

The direct assignment of civil cases to U.S. magistrate judges is being done as a case management measure in light of the extraordinary growth in civil filings and two long-standing district judge vacancies in this district. The court expresses its preference that parties exercise their right to consent immediately when a magistrate judge is first assigned to preside over their case. This will avoid delays and uncertainties if a district judge has to be drawn at a later date. In order to consent, parties must sign the attached form, which will be provided to them by the clerk's office pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 73(b).

This order is effective immediately and supersedes General Order 13-15 and any previous general

orders regarding the assignment of civil and criminal actions.

Signed this 2nd day of April, 2014.

**FOR THE COURT:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leonard Davis', with a large loop at the end.

LEONARD DAVIS  
Chief Judge



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

**NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT OF CASE TO A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Pursuant to General Order 14-8, this case has been randomly assigned to a magistrate judge. With the written consent of all parties, a magistrate judge may conduct all proceedings in a case, including all pretrial and trial proceedings, entry of judgment and post-trial motions. 28 U.S.C. § 636(c).

Please complete the attached form indicating whether you consent to proceed before the assigned magistrate judge. This form is also available from the court's website: [txed.uscourts.gov](http://txed.uscourts.gov). Although the court encourages consent, you are free to withhold consent without adverse consequences. If any party declines, the case will be reassigned to a district judge for any dispositive matters and/or trial, but will remain with the magistrate judge for all pretrial matters.

If you are the plaintiff or removing party in this case, you must file the attached form within 21 days of receipt of this notice. Each other party must file its form within 21 days of appearing in the case. The plaintiff or removing party must serve a copy of the completed form upon all other parties to this action.

Parties who are represented by counsel should file the signed consent form using the sealed event "Notice of Consent to Proceed Before U.S. Magistrate Judge." Pro se parties should continue to submit paper consent forms.

If a party declines magistrate judge jurisdiction, the case will be reassigned to a district judge for any dispositive matter and/or trial.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

**IMPORTANT: Return this form to the Clerk's Office promptly, but no later than twenty-one days after your appearance, answer or responsive pleading.**

Click here to enter text.

Plaintiff(s)

v.

Click here to enter text.

Defendant(s).

Case No. Click here to enter text.

**CONSENT TO JURISDICTION OF MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Each party in the above captioned civil matter is to check one of the following options below indicating whether the party will consent to having the assigned magistrate judge conduct any and all proceedings in this case, including trial and entry of final judgment in accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) (1). Sign this form below your selection.

**Consent to Magistrate Judge Jurisdiction**

In accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), I voluntarily **consent** to have the assigned United States magistrate judge conduct all further proceedings in this case, including trial and entry of final judgment.

**OR**

**Decline Magistrate Judge Jurisdiction**

I **decline** to consent to the United States magistrate judge. I hereby request that this case be reassigned to a United States district judge for any dispositive matter and/or trial.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNSEL FOR  
(OR PRO SE): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*