

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

**GENERAL ORDER RE: DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT AND APPORTIONMENT OF  
CASES AMONG UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGES**

It is hereby **ORDERED** that matters referred and assigned to United States Magistrate Judges in this district shall be directed and apportioned as follows:

**I. Divisional Assignments**

<u>Division</u>	<u>Magistrate</u>
Beaumont	Hon. Zack Hawthorn = 50% Criminal, Prisoner Civil Rights, Social Security, Pro Se Non-Prisoner, and 2254, 2241, and 2255 Habeas
	Hon. Christine L. Stetson = 50% Criminal, Prisoner Civil Rights, Social Security, Pro Se Non-Prisoner, and 2254, 2241, and 2255 Habeas
Lufkin	Hon. Zack Hawthorn = 50% Criminal, Prisoner Civil Rights, Social Security, Pro Se Non-Prisoner, and 2254, 2241, and 2255 Habeas
	Hon. Christine L. Stetson = 50% Criminal, Prisoner Civil Rights, Social Security, Pro Se Non-Prisoner, and 2254, 2241, and 2255 Habeas
Marshall	Hon. Roy Payne = 100% Criminal, Prisoner Civil Rights, Social Security, Pro Se Non-Prisoner, and 2254, 2241, and 2255 Habeas
Sherman	Hon. Aileen Goldman Durrett = 50% Criminal, Prisoner Civil Rights, Social Security, Pro Se Non-Prisoner, and 2241 Habeas, 100% 2254 Habeas
	Hon. Bill Davis = 50% Criminal, Prisoner Civil Rights, Social Security, Pro Se Non-Prisoner, and 2241 Habeas, 100% 2255 Habeas

Texarkana	Hon. Boone Baxter = 100% Criminal, Prisoner Civil Rights, Social Security, Pro Se Non-Prisoner, and 2254, 2241, and 2255 Habeas
Tyler	Hon. John D. Love = 50% Criminal, Prisoner Civil Rights, Social Security, Pro Se Non-Prisoner, and 2254, 2241, and 2255 Habeas
	Hon. K. Nicole Mitchell = 50% Criminal, Prisoner Civil Rights, Social Security, Pro Se Non-Prisoner, and 2254, 2241, and 2255 Habeas

## II. Apportionment

In divisions served by more than one magistrate judge, matters shall be referred and assigned as follows:

- A. Civil Cases:
  - 1. Prisoner suits shall be referred at the time of filing equally among magistrate judges with concurrent civil case responsibilities except as specified above. Prisoner suits shall automatically be assigned to the magistrate judge to whom the case originally was referred when parties consent to trial and entry of judgment by a magistrate judge.
  - 2. All other civil matters shall be referred or assigned randomly except as specified above or unless a specific order of the court directs otherwise.
- B. Criminal Cases:
  - 1. Magistrate judges shall rotate responsibilities for handling unscheduled matters and cases processed through the Central Violations Bureau (CVB) so that each has equal duty time.
  - 2. Except when governed by General Order 93-6:
    - a. Class A misdemeanor cases shall be assigned randomly to a magistrate judge when the case is filed except as specified above.
    - b. Class B and Class C misdemeanors and infractions, except CVB cases, shall be assigned to the duty magistrate judge at the time of defendants first appearance in this district.

### III. Miscellaneous

- A. Assignment of additional duties to magistrate judges will be made as deemed appropriate.
- B. Transfers between magistrate judges to equalize dockets and for other appropriate reasons shall be entered from time to time upon concurrence of the transferee judge.
- C. This order supersedes all prior general orders governing divisional assignments and allocation of duties of magistrate judges. Individual district judges ad hoc and standing orders governing specific referrals and assignments of cases to magistrate judges are unaffected by this order.

This general order supersedes its predecessor, General Order 23-05.

**FOR THE COURT and Effective as of the 1st day of September 2024.**

  
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RODNEY GILSTRAP  
Chief Judge