

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

GENERAL ORDER IMPLEMENTING THE PILOT PATENT PROJECT

In accordance with guidance received from the Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and the U.S. Judicial Conference's Committee on Court Administration and Case Management, this court will commence its participation in the pilot patent project, Public Law 111-349, on Monday, September 19, 2011. The district judges who have volunteered to participate in the project are Folsom, Schell, Ward, Davis, Clark, and Schneider.

The procedures that the court will use to implement the project are:

- (1) Additional district judges who wish to participate in the project at a later date may do so by notifying the chief judge;
- (2) Patent cases, like all other civil cases, will be assigned to the division in which they are filed and in the ratios specified in this court's latest general order regarding district judge civil case assignments. If the random draw ratios for patent cases in a division are different than those for regular civil cases, they will be specified in the general order on civil case assignments.
- (3) When any newly-filed patent case is randomly assigned to a judge not participating in the project, that judge must decide whether to keep or transfer the case to a patent project judge within thirty days of the initial filing of the patent case. If the patent case is not transferred within the thirty day period, it will remain on the docket of the non-participating judge.
- (4) Non-participating judges are encouraged to enter transfer orders quickly once a decision is made not to keep a patent case.
- (5) The court will make civil case equalization adjustments, if necessary, in implementing the pilot patent project.
- (6) False marking cases are not considered patent cases and are therefore excluded from the pilot patent project.

Signed this 22 day of August, 2011.

FOR THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Folsom", written in a cursive style.

DAVID FOLSOM
Chief Judge