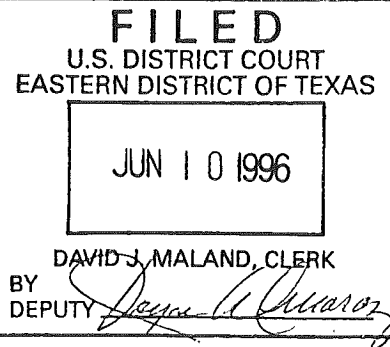


GENERAL ORDER 96- 12

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



**General Order Regarding
Custody of Prisoners Appearing in Civil Cases**

Proliferating criminal, prisoner civil rights and habeas corpus cases require federal, state and local prisoners to appear constantly in courts throughout the district.¹

Current criminal case procedures provide acceptable security for court personnel, witnesses, jurors, spectators and other government agency patrons and employees. However, prevalence of convicted felons as litigants and witnesses requires enhanced security in civil matters. It is therefore

ORDERED that the United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas take custody of all prisoners who appear for civil cases while they are at the courthouse, and accompany them when in court. It is further

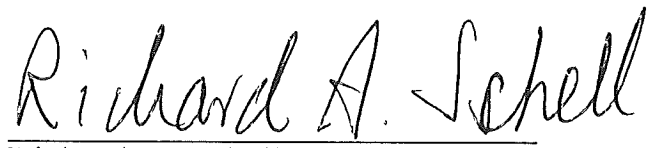
¹ The district ranked first nationally in prisoner civil rights cases filed in the fiscal year 1994. Source: Federal Judicial Workload Statistics. Additionally, the district filed 1923 prisoner petitions (civil rights and habeas corpus) in the year ending December 31, 1995, an increase of approximately 18% over the previous calendar year.

ORDERED that the United States Marshal return state and local prisoners to their regular custodians at the marshal's courthouse office or other designated location at the end of each day and upon final conclusion of the proceedings. It is further

ORDERED that judicial officers shall issue, and the clerk of court shall furnish to the marshal writs and orders appropriate to (a) give adequate advance notice of a prisoner's appearance, (b) establish the marshal's authority to take official custody of prisoners at the courthouse and (c) otherwise enable the marshal to carry out the directives in this order.

SIGNED this 7th day of June, 1996.

FOR THE COURT:


Richard A. Schell
Richard A. Schell
Chief Judge