

MAY 24 2012

David J. Bradley, Clerk of Court

By Deputy Clerk Alan Cassady

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

IN RE:
ORDER OF REFERENCE
TO BANKRUPTCY JUDGES

§
§
§

GENERAL ORDER 2012-6

ORDER

1. Bankruptcy cases and proceedings arising under Title 11 or arising in or related to a case under Title 11 of the United States Code are automatically referred to the bankruptcy judges of this district, except:

A. Civil actions pending before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas before a related bankruptcy petition is filed. With respect to these:

- (1) The automatic stay applies until it is modified by an order;
and
- (2) The district judge may refer these to the Bankruptcy Court.

B. Civil actions, bankruptcy cases and proceedings specifically withdrawn from the general reference to the Bankruptcy Court.

C. Appeals from the Bankruptcy Court.

2. In civil actions, bankruptcy cases and proceedings referred to them, the bankruptcy judges may exercise the full authority allowed them by law.

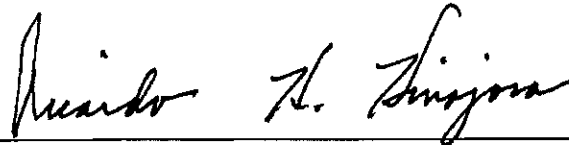
3. Cases related to a bankruptcy may be *removed* only from state court to

the United States District Court and not from other federal courts.

4. If a bankruptcy judge or district judge determines that entry of a final order or judgment by a bankruptcy judge would not be consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution in a particular proceeding referred under this order and determines that proceeding to be a core matter, the bankruptcy judge shall, unless otherwise ordered by the District Court, hear the proceeding and submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law to the District Court. The District Court may treat any order of the Bankruptcy Court as proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law if the District Court concludes that the bankruptcy judge could not have entered a final order or judgment consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.

5. This order supersedes General Order 2005-6.

Signed at McAllen, Texas on May 24, 2012.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ricardo H. Hinojosa". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

RICARDO H. HINOJOSA
CHIEF JUDGE