United States District Court
Southern District of Texas
ENTERED

JAN 01 2020

David J. Bradley, Clerk of Court
By Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

IN THE MATTER OF DIVISION OF WORK ORDER FOR 2020	§ § §	GENERAL ORDER NO. 2020-1

Division of Work Order

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 137, these assignments are made, and these procedures are adopted, effective January 1, 2020.

1. Chief Judge Lee H. Rosenthal

   A. Retains the cases presently on her docket.

   B. Receives 8.66% of all cases filed in the Houston Division.

   C. Is the liaison judge to all court units, including the U.S. District Clerk's Office, the U.S. Probation Office, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, as well as to the U.S. Public Defender's Office, the U.S. Marshals Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

   D. Is the liaison judge for the district's local rules.

2. Judge Ricardo H. Hinojosa

   A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

   B. Receives 33.33% of all cases filed in the McAllen Division.

   C. Is the liaison judge for the McAllen Division.

   D. Is the liaison judge for the interpreters in the district.

3. Judge Lynn N. Hughes

   A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

   B. Receives 8.66% of all cases filed in the Houston Division.

   C. Receives all government collection cases filed in the Galveston, Houston and Victoria Divisions.

   D. Is the liaison judge for court history.

   E. Is the liaison judge to the Bankruptcy Court judges in the Houston Division.

4. Judge Vanessa D. Gilmore

   A. Retains the cases presently on her docket.

   B. Receives 8.66% of all cases filed in the Houston Division.

   C. Coordinates all asbestos cases in the district except in the Corpus Christi and McAllen Divisions.

   D. Is the liaison judge to the United States Attorney's Office for matters of the Houston Division.

5. Judge Keith P. Ellison

   A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

   B. Receives 8.66% of all cases filed in the Houston Division.

   C. Is the liaison judge to the staff attorneys in the Houston Division.

6. Judge Randy Crane

   A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

   B. Receives 33.33% of all cases filed in the McAllen Division.

7. Judge Andrew S. Hanen

   A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

   B. Receives 8.66% of all cases filed in the Houston Division.

   C. Is the liaison judge to the Public Defender's Office in the Houston Division.

8. Judge Micaela Alvarez

   A. Retains the cases presently on her docket.

   B. Receives 33.33% of all cases filed in the McAllen Division.

   C. Is the liaison judge for jury utilization.

9. Judge Diana Saldaña

   A. Retains the cases presently on her docket.

   B. Receives 50% of all cases filed in the Laredo Division.

   C. Is the liaison judge for the Laredo Division.

10. Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos

    A. Retains the cases presently on her docket.

    B. Receives 50% of all civil cases filed in the Corpus Christi Division, except 28 U.S.C. § 2255 and student loan cases.

    C. Receives all 28 U.S.C. § 2255 civil cases arising from her own cases.

    D. Receives 50% of all criminal cases filed in the Corpus Christi Division.

    E. Is the liaison judge for the Corpus Christi Division.

11. Judge Marina Garcia Marmolejo

    A. Retains the cases presently on her docket.

    B. Receives 50% of all cases filed in the Laredo Division.

12. Judge Alfred H. Bennett

    A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

    B. Receives 8.66% of all cases filed in the Houston Division.

    C. Is the liaison judge for the Houston-Galveston Divisions' panel of private attorneys under the Criminal Justice Act and Chair of the Houston-Galveston CJA Panel Selection Committee.

13. Judge George C. Hanks, Jr.

    A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

    B. Receives 8.66% of all cases filed in the Houston Division.

14. Judge Rolando Olvera

    A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

    B. Receives 50% of all cases filed in the Brownsville Division.

    C. Is the liaison judge for the Brownsville Division.

15. Judge Fernando Rodriguez, Jr.

    A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

    B. Receives 50% of all cases filed in the Brownsville Division.

C. Receives all land condemnation cases related to the "Border Fence" filed in the Brownsville Division.

16. Judge David S. Morales

A. Receives 50% of all civil cases filed in the Corpus Christi Division, except 28 U.S.C. § 2255 and student loan cases.

B. Receives all 28 U.S.C. § 2255 civil cases arising from his own cases.

C. Receives 50% of all criminal cases filed in the Corpus Christi Division.

17. Judge Jeffrey V. Brown

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives all cases filed in the Galveston Division, except government collection cases and 28 U.S.C. § 2255 cases assigned to other judges based on their own criminal cases.

C. Is the liaison judge for the Galveston Division.

18. Judge Charles R. Eskridge III

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 8.66% of all cases filed in the Houston Division.

C. Is the liaison judge to the magistrate judges in the Houston Division and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program.

19. Senior Judge Hayden Head

A. Receives cases and other matters transferred by agreement from other judges.

20. Senior Judge David Hittner

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 8.66% of all cases filed in the Houston Division, except:

(1) Bankruptcy Appeals (Nature of Suit 422);
(2) Bankruptcy Withdrawal of Reference (Nature of Suit 423);
(3) Class Action (Requested in Complaint);
(4) ERISA (Nature of Suit 791); and
(5) Patent (Nature of Suit 830).

C. Is the liaison judge in the Houston Division for its central library.

21. Senior Judge Kenneth M. Hoyt

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 5.19% of all cases filed in the Houston Division, except:

(1) Bankruptcy Withdrawals of Reference (Nature of Suit 423);
(2) Copyright (Nature of Suit 820);
(3) Patent (Nature of Suit 830);
(4) Social Security (Nature of Suit 861 - 865); and
(5) Trademark (Nature of Suit 840).

C. Receives all civil cases filed in the Victoria Division, except government collection cases and 28 U.S.C. § 2255 cases assigned to other judges based on their own criminal cases.

22. Senior Judge Sim Lake

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 6.05% of all cases filed in the Houston Division, except:

(1) Bankruptcy Appeals (Nature of Suit 422);
(2) Bankruptcy Withdrawal of Reference (Nature of Suit 423);
(3) Other Civil Rights (Nature of Suit 440);
(4) Racketeering (RICO) (Nature of Suit 470); and
(5) Social Security (Nature of Suit 863 - 865).

C. Is the liaison judge to the Houston Division Probation Office.

23. Senior Judge John D. Rainey

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives all 28 U.S.C. § 2255 civil cases arising from his own cases.

C. Receives all criminal cases filed in the Victoria Division.

D. Is the liaison judge for the Victoria Division.

24. Senior Judge Ewing Werlein, Jr.

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 2.16% of all cases filed in the Houston Division, except:

(1) Bankruptcy Appeals (Nature of Suit 422);

(2) Bankruptcy Withdrawal of Reference (Nature of Suit 423);
(3) Civil Cases Arising from State Death Penalty Convictions;
(4) Fair Labor Standards Act (Nature of Suit 710);
(5) Federal Death Penalty Criminal Cases; and
(6) Paten (Nature of Suit 830).

25. Senior Judge Janis Graham Jack

A. Retains the cases presently on her docket.

B. Receives all student loan cases filed in the Corpus Christi Division.

C. Receives all 28 U.S.C. § 2255 civil cases arising from her own cases.

26. Senior Judge Nancy F. Atlas

A. Retains the cases presently on her docket.

B. Receives 4.33% of all cases filed in the Houston Division, except:

(1) Foreclosure (Nature of Suit 220);
(2) Immigration (Nature of Suit 460 - 465);
(3) Other Civil Rights (Nature of Suit 440);
(4) Racketeering (RICO) (Nature of Suit 470); and
(5) Social Security (Nature of Suit 861 - 865).

C. Is the liaison judge to the U.S. Marshals Service in the Houston Division.

27. Senior Judge Hilda G. Tagle

A. Retains the cases presently on her docket.

B. Receives all 28 U.S.C. § 2255 civil cases arising from her own cases filed in the Corpus Christi and Laredo Divisions.

C. Receives cases and other matters transferred by agreement from other judges.

28. Senior Judge Gray H. Miller

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 4.33% of all cases filed in the Houston Division, except:

(1) Bankruptcy Appeals (Nature of Suit 422);
(2) Bankruptcy Withdrawal of Reference (Nature of Suit 423);
(3) Civil Cases Arising from State Death Penalty Convictions;
(4) Class Action (Requested in Complaint);
(5) Patent (Nature of Suit 830); and

(6) Social Security (Nature of Suit 861 - 865).

29. Houston Miscellaneous Docket

A. The miscellaneous docket in the Houston Division consists of those matters that arise before a civil or criminal proceeding is filed and assigned to a judge, like naturalization ceremonies, grants of immunity to witnesses, and in forma pauperis applications.

B. The miscellaneous docket judge summons and empanels grand and petit juries.

C. Applications for restraining orders, preliminary injunctions, and similar emergency matters are to be handled by the judge to whom the matter is assigned. If that judge is not available and if the application requires immediate action, the assigned judge's staff will take it to the judge in charge of the miscellaneous docket.

D. The miscellaneous docket duties may be exchanged by consent with notice to the clerk and the chief judge.

E. The schedule for the Houston Division miscellaneous docket is Appendix A.

30. Attorney Admissions

A. The Clerk shall present any attorney admission exemption requests (e.g., renewal after expiration, waiver of workshop requirement, substitution of references, etc.) to the judge assigned to the miscellaneous docket. That judge may either decide the admission question or submit the issue to the Attorney Admission Committee.

B. Applications for reinstatement due to prior disciplinary action will be submitted to the Attorney Admission Committee for recommendation and then forwarded to the chief judge for consideration by the full Court.

31. Bankruptcy Matters

A. "Bankruptcy matters" are: (1) appeals from decisions of bankruptcy judges, (2) motions to withdraw the reference of bankruptcy cases or of adversary proceedings, (3) reports and recommendations by the bankruptcy judges, and (4) applications for writ of mandamus to a bankruptcy judge.

B. The initial bankruptcy matter associated with a particular bankruptcy case will be randomly assigned to a district judge the same as any other civil matter.

C. All later bankruptcy matters associated with that bankruptcy case will be assigned to the district judge who handled the initial bankruptcy matter, whether the initial matter is open or closed.

32. General

A. Whenever a judge is disqualified or recused in a case, the case initially shall be reassigned to another judge stationed in that division, according to the customary assignment procedure in that division. If all judges in a division are recused or disqualified, the case shall be reassigned as follows: a case in the Galveston Division shall be randomly assigned to a judge in the Houston Division; a case in the Victoria Division shall be randomly assigned to a judge in the Corpus Christi Division; a case in the Corpus Christi Division shall be randomly assigned to a judge in the McAllen Division; a case in either the Laredo, McAllen, or Brownsville Divisions shall be randomly assigned to a judge within one of those three divisions. Any reassignment otherwise required will be done by the chief judge.

B. Nothing in this order deprives a judge of jurisdiction in a matter. A judge may handle matters for another judge by consent.

C. Matters affecting a liaison assignment should be brought first to the attention of the liaison judge who may handle routine administrative matters. Emergency questions involving court policies will be discussed with the chief judge and may be resolved by the liaison judge and chief judge. The chief judge shall report the emergency to the full court for discussion as promptly as possible.

D. Judge Saldaña is appointed Chair of the Attorney Admission Fund Committee, and Judge Hanks is assigned as a member of that committee.

E. Judge Hughes is appointed Chair of the Committee on Court Portraits, and Judge Olvera, Judge Hittner and Judge Tagle are assigned as members of that committee.

F. Judge Garcia Marmolejo is appointed Chair of the Court Information Technology Committee, and Judge Hanen, Judge Crane, Judge Gonzales Ramos, Judge Atlas, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Jones, and Magistrate Judge Ormsby shall serve as the judicial officer members of that committee.

G. Judge Gilmore is appointed Chair of the Court Reporter Liaison Panel, and Judge Rodriguez and Judge Brown are assigned as members of that Panel.

H. Judge Atlas is appointed Chair of the Court Security Committee, and Chief Judge Rosenthal, Circuit Judge Elrod, Judge Crane, Judge Morales, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Jones, and Magistrate Judge Libby shall serve as the judicial officer members of that committee.

I. The assignment of magistrate judges to district judges is Appendix B.

J. The chief judge will call meetings of the full court as needed and will select the time and place of the meetings.

ORDERED this the 2nd day of January, 2020.

LEE H. ROSENTHAL
CHIEF JUDGE

Appendix A
2020 Miscellaneous Docket-Houston Division

January	Judge Hanks
February	Judge Eskridge
March	Judge Bennett
April	Judge Ellison
May	Judge Gilmore
June	Judge Hughes
July	Judge Hanen
August	Judge Hanks
September	Judge Eskridge
October	Judge Bennett
November	Judge Ellison
December	Judge Gilmore

Appendix B

Assignment of Magistrate Judges to District Judges

Division	*District Judge*	*Magistrate Judges*
Brownsville	Rolando Olvera and Fernando Rodriguez, Jr. (Jointly)	Ronald G. Morgan Ignacio Torteya, III
Corpus Christi	Nelva Gonzales Ramos, David S. Morales, Hayden Head (Senior), John D. Rainey (Senior), Janis Graham Jack (Senior), and Hilda G. Tagle (Senior) (Jointly)	Jason B. Libby Julie K. Hampton (1/6/20)
Galveston	Jeffrey V. Brown	Andrew M. Edison
Houston	Lynn N. Hughes David Hittner (Senior)	Peter Bray
	Charles Eskridge Sim Lake (Senior)	Nancy K. Johnson
	Alfred H. Bennett Andrew S. Hanen Ewing Werlein, Jr. (Senior)	Frances H. Stacy
	Lee H. Rosenthal Vanessa D. Gilmore Gray H. Miller (Senior)	Christina Bryan
	Keith P. Ellison Kenneth Hoyt (Senior) Nancy F. Atlas (Senior)	Dena Hanovice Palermo
	George C. Hanks, Jr.	Andrew M. Edison
Laredo	Diana Saldaña Marina Garcia Marmolejo	Diana Song Quiroga John A. Kazen Sam S. Sheldon
McAllen	Ricardo H. Hinojosa, Randy Crane, and Micaela Alvarez (Jointly)	Peter E. Ormsby James Scott Hacker Juan F. Alanis
Victoria	John D. Rainey (Senior)	As Needed