United States District Court
Southern District of Texas
ENTERED
December 30, 2022
Nathan Ochsner, Clerk of Court
By Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

IN THE MATTER OF DIVISION §
OF WORK ORDER FOR 2023 §
§

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2023-1

Division of Work Order

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 137, these assignments are made, and these procedures are adopted, effective January 1, 2023.

1. Chief Judge Randy Crane

   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 to all court units, including the U.S. District Clerk's Office, the U.S. Probation Office, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, the Federal Public Defender's Office, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

   D. Is the liaison judge for the McAllen Division.

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 interpreters in the district.

3. Judge Lynn N. Hughes

   A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

   B. Receives 8.53% of all cases filed in the Houston Division.

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

4. Judge Lee H. Rosenthal

   A. Retains the cases presently on her docket.

   B. Receives 11.36% of all cases filed in the Houston Division.

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

D. Is the liaison judge for the Houston Division.

5. Judge Keith P. Ellison

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 11.36% of all cases filed in the Houston Division.

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

6. Judge Andrew S. Hanen

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 11.36% of all cases filed in the Houston Division.

C. Is the liaison judge to the Federal Public Defender's Office and the U.S. Marshals Service in the Houston Division.

7. 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 the McAllen Division's panel of private attorneys under the Criminal Justice Act.

D. Is the liaison judge for jury utilization.

8. 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.

9. Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos

A. Retains the cases presently on her docket.

B. Receives 39.7% 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 39% of all criminal cases filed in the Corpus Christi Division.

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

10. Judge Marina Garcia Marmolejo

A. Retains the cases presently on her docket.

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

11. Judge Alfred H. Bennett

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 11.36% 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.

12. Judge George C. Hanks, Jr.

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 11.36% of all cases filed in the Houston Division.

C. Is the liaison judge to the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Houston Division.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. Judge David S. Morales

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 39.7% 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 his own cases.

D. Receives 39% of all criminal cases filed in the Corpus Christi Division.

16. 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.

17. Judge Charles R. Eskridge III

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 11.36% 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.

18. Judge Drew B. Tipton

A. Retains the cases on his docket.

B. Receives 20.6% 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 his own cases.

D. Receives 22% of all criminal cases filed in the Corpus Christi Division.

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

F. 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.

G. Is the liaison judge for the Victoria Division.

19. Senior Judge David Hittner

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 5.69% 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).

20. Senior Judge Kenneth M. Hoyt

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 6.82% 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).

21. Senior Judge Sim Lake

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 7.96% 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) Patent (Nature of Suit 830);
(5) Racketeering (RICO) (Nature of Suit 470); and
(6) Social Security (Nature of Suit 863 - 865).

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

22. 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.

23. Senior Judge Ewing Werlein, Jr.

A. Retains the cases presently on his docket.

B. Receives 2.84% 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) Patent (Nature of Suit 830).

24. 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.

25. Senior Judge Gray H. Miller

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

B. Assists other judges with criminal sentencings by agreement of the judges.

C. Works as a visiting judge.

26. 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.

27. Attorney Admissions

A. The Clerk will 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.

28. 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.

29. General

A. Whenever a judge is disqualified or recused in a case, the case initially will 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 will be reassigned as follows: a case in the Galveston Division will be randomly assigned to a judge in the Houston Division; a case in the Victoria Division will be randomly assigned to a judge in the Corpus Christi Division; a case in the Corpus Christi Division will be randomly assigned to a judge in the McAllen Division; a case in either the Laredo, McAllen, or Brownsville Divisions will 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 will report the emergency to the full court for discussion as promptly as practical.

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 Morales, and Judge Hittner are assigned as members of that committee.

F. Judge Garcia Marmolejo is appointed Chair of the Court Information Technology Committee, Chief Judge Crane, and Judge Hanen, Judge Rodriguez, Judge Tipton, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Rodriguez, Bankruptcy Judge Jones, and Magistrate Judge Edison are the judicial officer members of that committee.

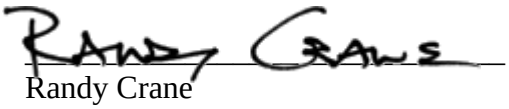
G. Judge Rodriguez is appointed Chair of the Court Reporter Committee, and Judge Bennett and Judge Brown are assigned as members of that committee.

H. Judge Hanen is appointed Chair of the Court Security Committee, and Chief Judge Crane, Circuit Judge Elrod, Judge Morales, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Rodriguez, and Magistrate Judge Kazen are 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

SO ORDERED December 30, 2022, at McAllen, Texas.



Randy Crane
United States District Judge

Appendix A
2023 Miscellaneous Docket-Houston Division

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

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, Drew B. Tipton, John D. Rainey (Senior), and Janis Graham Jack (Senior) (Jointly)	Jason B. Libby Julie K. Hampton Mitchel Neurock
Galveston	Jeffrey V. Brown	Andrew M. Edison
Houston	Lynn N. Hughes David Hittner (Senior)	Peter Bray
	Charles Eskridge Sim Lake (Senior)	Christina Bryan
	Alfred H. Bennett Ewing Werlein, Jr. (Senior)	Yvonne Y. Ho
	Lee H. Rosenthal Andrew S. Hanen	Sam S. Sheldon
	Keith P. Ellison Kenneth Hoyt (Senior)	Dena Hanovice Palermo
	George C. Hanks, Jr.	Andrew M. Edison
Laredo	Diana Saldaña Marina Garcia Marmolejo (Jointly)	Diana Song Quiroga and Christopher A. dos Santos John A. Kazen
McAllen	Ricardo H. Hinojosa, Randy Crane, and Micaela Alvarez (Jointly)	James Scott Hacker Juan F. Alanis Nadia S. Medrano
Victoria	Drew B. Tipton John D. Rainey (Senior)	As Needed