

LOCAL RULES

CIVIL RULES

LR1. For the Purpose of Assignment of Cases, the Divisions and Places of Holding Court in the Southern District of Texas are:

- (a) Brownsville Division – The Brownsville Division consists of the counties of Cameron and Willacy.
 - (b) Corpus Christi Division – The Corpus Christi Division consists of the counties of Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duvall, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces and San Patricio.
 - (c) Galveston Division – The Galveston Division consists of the counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston and Matagorda.
 - (d) Houston Division
 - a. Houston Place of Holding Court – The Houston Place of Holding Court consists of the counties of Colorado, Fort Bend, Harris, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Wharton.
 - b. College Station Place of Holding Court – The College Station Place of Holding Court consists of the counties of Austin, Brazos, Fayette, Grimes, Madison, Walker, and Waller.
 - (e) Laredo Division – The Laredo Division consists of the counties of Jim Hogg, La Salle, McMullen, Webb and Zapata.
 - (f) McAllen Division – The McAllen Division consists of the counties of Hidalgo and Starr.
 - (g) Victoria Division – The Victoria Division consists of the counties of Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Refugio and Victoria.
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LR2. ASSIGNMENT OF CASES

(a) Initial Case Assignment

Unless otherwise provided in these Rules or the General Orders of the Court, all actions, causes and proceedings will be assigned by the clerk to judges by random selection.

(b) Intradistrict Assignment and Reassignment

(1) A civil action must be filed in the Division or Place of Holding Court in which the claim arose. A claim arises where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred or where a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated. If the claim arose outside the District, the action must be filed in the Division or Place of Holding Court in which all defendants reside or, in the case of entity defendants, have their principal places of business. If these criteria do not identify a single Division or Place of Holding Court, the action will be assigned as the Court directs in the interests of justice.

(2) Cases removed from state court must be removed to the Division or Place of Holding Court in which that county sits.

(3) Actions filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 or § 2255 must be filed in the Division or Place of Holding Court which encompasses the county where the conviction occurred, regardless of where the petitioner is incarcerated.

(4) Actions may be transferred or reassigned intradistrict in the interests of justice. An intradistrict transfer or reassignment done for the purpose of consolidation will presumptively be transferred or reassigned to the first filed Division or Place of Holding Court, unless directed otherwise in the interests of justice.

CrLR18. PLACE OF TRIAL WITHIN THE DISTRICT

A. Division or Place of Holding Court in Which Prosecution and Trial May Occur

1. Unless a statute, other rule, or court order requires otherwise, the government may prosecute a case in any Division or Place of Holding Court in the District in which the offense was committed, in whole or in part.
2. The court may fix the venue of a criminal case in any Division or Place of Holding Court in the District, consistent with Fed.R.Crim.P.18 and this Local Rule.

B. Multiple Offenses

In cases involving multiple offenses joined under Fed.R.Crim.P.8(a), the court may fix the venue in any Division in the District in which any one of the offenses may be tried.

C. Multiple Defendants

In cases involving multiple defendants joined under Fed.R.Crim.P.8(b), the court may fix the venue in any Division in the District in which any one of the defendants may be tried.

D. Intradistrict Transfer

On a judge's own motion or on the motion of a party, the judge in whose court the case was filed may transfer the case to a different Division in the District, if, after notice to the parties and an opportunity for them to be heard, the judge finds that the case was not filed in the proper Division or that transfer to a different Division would be in the interests of justice, based on the convenience of the defendant and the witnesses and on the prompt administration of justice.

1. If a case is transferred to another Division under Rule 18 and this Local Rule, the Clerk of Court will assign the case to a judge in the transferee Division in accordance with the plan for random assignment, unless the transferor judge orders that he or she will continue to handle the case after transfer.
2. If a case is retained in the Division where it was filed, the judge may direct the Clerk of Court to assign it to a judge in a Division in which venue would have been proper under Rule 18 and this Local Rule, in accordance with the plan for random assignment.

(Added May 14, 2019, General Order 2019-4).