

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY

GENERAL ORDER NO. 25-01

CASE ASSIGNMENT AND RECUSAL ORDER

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The undersigned being sufficiently advised, it is hereby

ORDERED that, effective February 3, 2025, all newly-filed cases shall be assigned and/or reassigned in the following manner:

1. (Death Penalty Cases) All death penalty cases shall be assigned as outlined in General Order No. 18-13, which is incorporated here by reference.

2. (28 U.S.C. § 2254 Petitions) All petitions seeking a writ of habeas corpus filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254, regardless of the docket on which they are filed, shall be randomly and equally assigned from the pool of all active district judges. Should the judge assigned to the case recuse, the matter shall be reassigned by random draw to another judge from the pool of all active district judges.

3. Subject to paragraphs 1 and 2 above, all remaining cases shall be assigned and/or reassigned in the following manner:

A. Northern Division at Ashland

Civil cases are assigned to Chief United States District Judge David L. Bunning (100%). Should Judge Bunning recuse, the matter shall be reassigned to United States District Judge Danny C. Reeves.

Criminal cases are assigned to Judge Bunning (100%). Should Judge Bunning recuse, the matter shall be reassigned to United States District Judge Karen K. Caldwell.

Eastern District of Kentucky

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Robert R. Carr

Clerk, U.S. District Court

B. Northern Division at Covington

Civil cases are assigned to Judge Bunning (50%) and Judge Reeves (50%). Should Judge Bunning recuse, the matter shall be reassigned to Judge Reeves. Should Judge Reeves recuse, the matter shall be reassigned to Judge Bunning.

Criminal cases are assigned to Judge Bunning (100%). Should Judge Bunning recuse, the matter shall be reassigned to Judge Caldwell.

C. Central Division at Frankfort

Civil cases are assigned to United States District Judge Gregory F. Van Tatenhove (100%). Should Judge Van Tatenhove recuse, the matter shall be reassigned to Judge Caldwell.

Criminal cases are assigned to Judge Van Tatenhove (100%). Should Judge Van Tatenhove recuse, the matter shall be assigned to Judge Caldwell.

D. Central Division at Lexington

Civil cases are assigned to Judge Reeves (33%), Judge Caldwell (33%), Judge Van Tatenhove (24%), United States District Judge Claria H. Boom (5%), and United States District Judge Robert E. Wier (5%). Should the district judge assigned to the case recuse, the matter shall be reassigned by random draw to another district judge assigned to accept civil cases on this docket.

Criminal cases are assigned to Judge Caldwell (50%), and Judge Van Tatenhove (30%), Judge Boom (10%), and Judge Wier (10%). Should the district judge assigned to the case recuse, the matter shall be reassigned by random draw to another district judge assigned to accept criminal cases on this docket.

E. Southern Division at London

Civil cases are assigned to Judge Wier (30%), Judge Boom (30%), Judge Caldwell (20%), and Judge Van Tatenhove (20%). Should the district judge assigned to the case recuse, the matter shall be reassigned by random draw to another district judge assigned to accept criminal cases on this docket.

Criminal cases are assigned to Judge Wier (67%) and Judge Boom (33%). Should Judge Wier recuse, the matter shall be reassigned to Judge Boom. Should Judge Boom recuse, the matter shall be reassigned to Judge Wier.

F. Southern Division at Pikeville

Civil cases are assigned to Judge Wier (80%) and Judge Caldwell (20%). Should Judge Wier recuse, the matter shall be reassigned to Judge Caldwell. Should Judge Caldwell recuse, the matter shall be reassigned to Judge Wier.

Criminal cases are assigned to Judge Bunning (50%) and Judge Caldwell (50%). Should Judge Bunning recuse, the matter shall be reassigned to Judge Caldwell. Should Judge Caldwell recuse, the matter shall be reassigned to Judge Bunning.

4. Should all district judges assigned civil cases on a particular docket recuse, the matter shall be referred to Judge Bunning for reassignment to another district judge willing to accept the assignment.

5. Should all district judges assigned criminal cases on a particular docket recuse, the matter shall be referred to Judge Bunning for reassignment to another district judge willing to accept the assignment.

6. Any district judge is authorized to reassign a case to another district judge willing to accept the assignment.

7. If all district judges recuse from a case or are unwilling or unable to accept the assignment, the matter shall be referred to the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit for reassignment.

8. The Clerk of the Court is directed to reassign by random draw any civil or criminal case and related proceeding assigned to (or which would ordinarily be assigned to) a United States District Judge who is no longer in active status to another district judge assigned to accept cases on the respective docket of the matter.

9. Effective February 3, 2025, this General Order supersedes General Order No. 22-19.

This 1st day of February, 2025.



Signed By:

David L. Bunning *DB*

United States District Judge