GENERAL ORDER 13-15

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

GENERAL ORDER ASSIGNING CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ACTIONS

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 137 and the agreement of the judges affected hereby, it is ORDERED that all civil and criminal cases filed shall be assigned to individual judges of this district in the proportions listed below:

DISTRICT JUDGE	CASELOAD
CHIEF JUDGE LEONARD DAVIS	Tyler Civil = 25% Tyler Habeas = 50% Tyler Criminal = 50%
JUDGE RICHARD A. SCHELL	Sherman Civil and Criminal = 50%
JUDGE RON CLARK	Civil = 40% of Beaumont, 50% of Sherman, 100% of Lufkin, 100% of Beaumont & Lufkin Patent Criminal = 37.5% of Beaumont, 100% of Lufkin
JUDGE MARCIA CRONE	Civil = 40% of Beaumont Criminal = 37.5% of Beaumont, 50% of Sherman, 100% Beaumont, Lufkin and Sherman Capital Murder and Murder Cases
JUDGE MICHAEL SCHNEIDER	Tyler Civil = 25% Tyler Habeas = 50% Tyler Criminal = 50% Texarkana Civil and Criminal = 100%
JUDGE J. RODNEY GILSTRAP	Marshall Civil and Criminal = 100%

JUDGE THAD HEARTFIELD	Beaumont Civil = 20% Beaumont Criminal = 25%
MAGISTRATE JUDGE JOHN LOVE	Tyler Civil Non-Habeas = 25%
MAGISTRATE JUDGE NICOLE MITCHELL	Tyler Civil Non-Habeas = 25%

The direct assignment of civil cases to U.S. magistrate judges is being done as a case management measure in light of the extraordinary growth in civil filings and two long-standing district judge vacancies in this district. The court expresses its preference that parties exercise their right to consent immediately when a magistrate judge is first assigned to preside over their case. This will avoid delays and uncertainties if a district judge has to be drawn at a later date. Parties will need to sign appropriate consent forms pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636(c)(1). These can be obtained from the court's website or clerk's office.

This order is effective immediately and supersedes General Order 13-7 and any previous general orders regarding district judge case assignments.

Signed this 23rd day of August, 2013.

FOR THE COURT:

_____
LEONARD DAVIS
Chief Judge