

Sep 30, 2020

JULIA C. DUDLEY, CLERK
BY: s/ A. Beeson
DEPUTY CLERK

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA**

**IN RE: DIVISION OF CASES)
AMONG DISTRICT JUDGES) Standing Order No. 2020-17**

The Clerk of Court is directed to implement the random assignment of cases and miscellaneous proceedings as follows:

- (1) Abingdon Division. All cases and miscellaneous proceedings are to be assigned to Judge James P. Jones.
- (2) Big Stone Gap Division. All cases and miscellaneous proceedings are to be assigned to Judge James P. Jones.
- (3) Charlottesville Division. All civil cases and miscellaneous proceedings are to be assigned on rotation as follows: One case to Senior Judge Glen E. Conrad and one case to Senior Judge Norman K. Moon. All criminal cases are to be assigned to Senior Judge Norman K. Moon.
- (4) Danville Division. All civil cases and miscellaneous proceedings, except for those in which the federal government is a party, are to be assigned to Judge Thomas T. Cullen. All civil cases in which the federal government is a party and all criminal cases are to be assigned to Judge Michael F. Urbanski.
- (5) Harrisonburg Division. All civil cases and miscellaneous proceedings, except for those in which the federal government is a party, are to be assigned to Judge Thomas T. Cullen. All civil cases in which the federal government is a party and all criminal cases are to be assigned to Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon.
- (6) Lynchburg Division. All cases and miscellaneous proceedings are to be assigned to Senior Judge Norman K. Moon.
- (7) Roanoke Division. Cases and miscellaneous proceedings are to be assigned on rotation:
 - (a) All prisoner cases, as defined by separate Standing Order of the Court; one case to Judge James P. Jones, one case to Senior Judge Glen E. Conrad, one case to Judge Michael F. Urbanski, one case to Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon, and two cases to Judge Thomas T. Cullen.
 - (b) All other civil cases: one case to Senior Judge Glen E. Conrad, one case to Judge Michael F. Urbanski, one case to Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon, and one case to Judge Thomas T. Cullen. Judge Cullen will not receive assignments of civil cases in which the federal government is a party.
 - (c) All criminal cases are to be assigned on rotation as follows: one case to Judge

Michael F. Urbanski and one case to Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon.

(8) Capital Cases. Criminal cases in which one or more of the defendants is eligible for the death penalty are to be assigned to the active district judges in the rotation of criminal cases for the division in which the case arises. If there is more than one active district judge in the rotation of criminal cases for that division, the case is to be assigned to the active district judge next in rotation who is not currently assigned a capital case, or who is currently assigned the least number of capital cases. If there is no active judge in the rotation for the division, the case is to be assigned to an active district judge by the Chief Judge, taking into account the desire to balance capital cases among the active district judges. Habeas cases in which the petitioner is under sentence of death are to be assigned to the active district judges in the district in rotation by order of seniority, regardless of the division in which the case arose.

(9) Miscellaneous. In the event a judge has a conflict in a case or miscellaneous proceeding that would have been assigned him/her under the rotation, the Clerk shall assign that case to the next judge in the rotation without a conflict and shall assign the disqualified judge two cases when he/she is next in the rotation.

Cases in Abingdon and Big Stone Gap divisions in which Judge James P. Jones has a conflict are to be assigned to Judge Michael F. Urbanski.

Cases in the Charlottesville division in which Senior Judge Glen E. Conrad has a conflict are to be assigned to Senior Judge Norman K. Moon; cases in which Senior Judge Norman K. Moon has a conflict are to be assigned to Senior Judge Glen E. Conrad.

Cases in the Danville division in which Judge Thomas T. Cullen has a conflict are to be assigned to Judge Michael F. Urbanski. Danville cases in which Judge Michael F. Urbanski has a conflict are to be assigned to Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon.

Cases in the Lynchburg division in which Senior Judge Norman K. Moon has a conflict are to

be assigned to Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon.

Cases in the Harrisonburg division in which Judge Thomas T. Cullen has a conflict are to be assigned to Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon. Harrisonburg cases in which Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon has a conflict are to be assigned to Judge Michael F. Urbanski.

The Clerk shall assign a new case or miscellaneous proceeding that is related to a pending case or miscellaneous proceeding within the division to the district judge before whom the related case or miscellaneous proceeding is pending, and in the event of multiple related filings (five or more related cases), shall obtain the guidance of the judges within the division before making the assignment and determining its effect on the rotation within the division.

Nothing in this order shall be construed to prevent any district judge from relinquishing any case on his/her docket or from reassigning any case on his/her docket to a judge in a rotation in that division with the consent of the judge to whom the case is reassigned. When a judge reassigns a case to another judge, an order will be entered transferring that case to the second judge's docket. If the assignment is for a limited purpose, the order shall state the limits of the second judge's involvement, so that the Clerk's Office and the parties are fully informed.

If all of the judges assigned to a division have a conflict or are unable to hear a given case, case assignment will be made by the Chief Judge.

This standing order supersedes all prior case assignment orders and memoranda of this Court and shall take effect on October 1, 2020.

The Clerk is directed to enter this order in the order books for each division of this Court.

ENTER this 30th day of September 2020.



Michael F. Urbanski
Chief U.S. District Judge
2020.09.30 15:57:27 -04'00'

Michael F. Urbanski
Chief United States District Judge