

FILED
in the Middle District of
North Carolina
4/5/2024
10:00 a.m.
Clerk, US District Court
By: JSB

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**JUDGE ASSIGNMENTS IN THE)
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH) STANDING ORDER NO. 21
CAROLINA)**

This Order memorializes long-standing practices in this district for assigning cases to judges.


Civil and criminal cases are assigned with the goals of equitably distributing the workload of the Court and of avoiding judge shopping. Individual case assignments are not made by courthouse location, judicial interest, or judicial expertise.

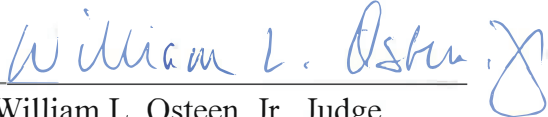
The Clerk assigns civil cases pursuant to a detailed internal written plan approved by the Court and modified as needed from time to time. The Clerk assigns cases in sequential order using a list of all judges, within case categories that take into account the degree of complexity usually involved. The case rotation list may be modified for senior and chief judges, who may elect to have a reduced case load, and for case-specific management reasons. The Court has a strict system to check for conflicts of interest, which may result in a case assignment out of rotational order, and cases may be reassigned when appropriate to avoid a conflict of interest developing after assignment. The Clerk manages such situations over time to ensure generally even assignment of cases within categories. To avoid judge shopping, the detailed internal plan is not public. Standing Order 30 governs assignments of civil cases to magistrate judges.


For criminal cases, judges are assigned to monthly criminal terms rotated among judges, usually set by the Court annually and modified as needed from time to time.

Cases are set for resolution during these monthly terms pursuant to the Speedy Trial Act and scheduling orders at arraignment. To reduce judge shopping, the annual criminal term calendar is not public. Individual cases may be reassigned by the Clerk to avoid conflicts of interest, for more even workload distribution, or for case management purposes.

This the 5th day of April, 2024.


Catherine C. Eagles, Chief Judge
United States District Court


William L. Osteen, Jr., Judge
United States District Court


Thomas D. Schroeder, Judge
United States District Court


Loretta C. Biggs, Judge
United States District Court