



- a. All prisoner cases, as defined by separate Standing Order of the Court: one to Judge James P. Jones; one to Michael F. Urbanski; one to Judge Elizabeth Dillon; and one to Judge Thomas T. Cullen.
  - b. All other cases and miscellaneous proceedings: one case to Judge Michael F. Urbanski; one case to Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon; and one case to Judge Thomas T. Cullen.
- (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—Case Conflicts and Related Cases.
- a. Conflicts. Assignment of cases in which a judge has a conflict will be made in the following manner.
    - i. Abingdon and Big Stone Gap. Judge Michael F. Urbanski will be assigned cases in which Judge James P. Jones has a conflict.
    - ii. Charlottesville. Judge Thomas T. Cullen will be assigned cases in which Senior Judge Norman K. Moon has a conflict.

- iii. Danville. 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.
  - iv. Harrisonburg. 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.
  - v. Lynchburg. Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon will be assigned cases in which Senior Judge Norman K. Moon has a conflict.
  - vi. Roanoke. 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.
  - vii. Chief Judge. If all judges assigned to a division have a conflict or are unable to hear a given case, the Chief Judge will assign the case.
- b. Related Cases. 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 parties are fully informed.

This Standing Order supersedes all prior case assignment orders and memoranda of this Court and shall take effect on Monday, October 4, 2021.

It is SO ORDERED.

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

ENTER: This 13th day of September, 2021.



Michael F. Urbanski  
Chief U.S. District Judge  
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Michael F. Urbanski  
Chief United States District Judge