

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

**GENERAL ORDER NO. 2016-1**

**PLAN FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CASES**

To maintain an equitable distribution of cases among the United States District Judges and the United States Magistrate Judges for the Western District of Arkansas, the following plan for the distribution of criminal, civil and miscellaneous cases is hereby adopted.

1. **NEW FILINGS** - All cases filed after the effective date of this Order will be assigned in the following manner, in accordance with Local Rule 40.1, Rules of the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas:

<b>EL DORADO DIVISION:</b>	<b>Criminal:</b> Judge Susan Owens Hickey (50%) Judge Harry F. Barnes (50%) <b>Civil:</b> Judge Susan Owens Hickey (100%) <b>Civil Miscellaneous:</b> Judge Susan Owens Hickey (100%)
<b>FORT SMITH DIVISION:</b>	<b>Criminal:</b> Judge P. K. Holmes, III (100%) <b>Civil:</b> Judge P. K. Holmes, III (100%) <b>Civil Miscellaneous:</b> Judge P. K. Holmes, III (100%)
<b>HARRISON DIVISION:</b>	<b>Criminal:</b> Judge P. K. Holmes, III (100%) <b>Civil:</b> Judge Timothy L. Brooks (100%) <b>Civil Miscellaneous:</b> Judge Timothy L. Brooks (100%)
<b>TEXARKANA DIVISION:</b>	<b>Criminal:</b> Judge Susan Owens Hickey (50%) Judge Harry F. Barnes (50%) <b>Civil:</b> Judge Susan Owens Hickey (100%) <b>Civil Miscellaneous:</b> Judge Susan Owens Hickey (100%)
<b>FAYETTEVILLE DIVISION:</b>	<b>Criminal:</b> Judge Timothy L. Brooks (100%) <b>Civil:</b> Judge Timothy L. Brooks (65%) Judge P. K. Holmes, III (35%) <b>Civil Miscellaneous:</b> Judge Timothy L. Brooks (100%)



**FAYETTEVILLE DIVISION:** (TLB Recusals) Judge P. K. Holmes, III  
(PKH Recusals) Judge Timothy L. Brooks

**HOT SPRINGS DIVISION:** (PKH Recusals) Judge Susan O. Hickey  
(SOH Recusals) Judge P. K. Holmes, III

4. **SEALED CRIMINAL MISCELLANEOUS CASES** - The District or Magistrate Judge signing the application, warrant, and/or order initiating the case will be assigned as the presiding judge.

5. **CASES ASSIGNED OR REFERRED TO MAGISTRATE JUDGES** - In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636; Rules 5 and 5.1 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure; Local Rule 72.1, Rules of the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas; and General Orders of the Western District of Arkansas, cases filed and/or reopened after the effective date of this Order will be assigned or referred to the U.S. Magistrate Judges of the Western District of Arkansas in the following manner:

**EL DORADO DIVISION:** Magistrate Judge Barry A. Bryant

**FORT SMITH DIVISION:** Magistrate Judge Mark E. Ford

**HARRISON DIVISION:** Magistrate Judge Mark E. Ford

**TEXARKANA DIVISION:** Magistrate Judge Barry A. Bryant

**FAYETTEVILLE DIVISION:** Magistrate Judge Erin L. Setser

**HOT SPRINGS DIVISION:** Magistrate Judge Barry A. Bryant

6. **DIRECT ASSIGNMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY APPEAL CASES** - All cases filed pursuant to § 205(g) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 406(g), for benefits under Titles II, XVI and XVII of the Act will be assigned to a Magistrate Judge, as the Presiding Judge, at the time of filing, in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Order.

7. CASELOAD MANAGEMENT BY MAGISTRATE JUDGES - Notwithstanding the provisions of the foregoing paragraphs 5 and 6, the Magistrate Judges are authorized to make exceptions to the foregoing assignment/referral plan if and when needed to ensure there is an even and equitable distribution of the cases and workload among them.

8. This Order is effective **January 1, 2016**, and supersedes the Order entered January 5, 2015.

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2015.



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P. K. HOLMES, III  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE