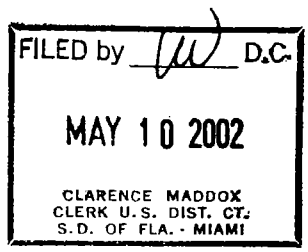
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2002-12



IN RE: IMPLEMENTATION OF MAGISTRATE JUDGE PAIRING ASSIGNMENT PLAN (Central and Northern Divisions: Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, Fort Pierce)

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In conjunction with the Magistrate Judge Pairing Assignment Plan implemented in Miami pursuant to Administrative Order 2002-02, a pairing plan will be implemented for the Central (Fort Lauderdale) and Northern (West Palm Beach and Fort Pierce) Divisions. Therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED that commencing June 1, 2002, and until further Order of the Chief Judge, the judges and magistrate judges for the Central and Northern Divisions, including Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, and Fort Pierce, will be paired as follows:

Magistrate Judge Snow - **Chief Judge William J. Zloch**
All criminal and civil cases
Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr.
All criminal and civil cases
Senior Judge Jose A. Gonzalez, Jr.
All civil cases

Magistrate Judge Seltzer - **Judge William P. Dimitrouleas**
All criminal and civil cases
District Judge #17
All criminal and civil cases
Senior Judge Norman C. Roettger
All criminal and civil cases but for Fort Pierce cases (case numbers 14000-19999)

Magistrate Judge Johnson - **Judge Donald M. Middlebrooks**
Odd-numbered criminal and civil cases but for Fort Pierce cases (case numbers 14000-19999)

Senior Judge James C. Paine
All criminal and civil cases but for Fort Pierce cases (case numbers 14000-19999)

Senior Judge Kenneth L. Ryskamp
All criminal cases

Magistrate Judge Vitunac - **Judge Daniel T. K. Hurley**
All criminal cases
Judge Donald M. Middlebrooks
Even-numbered criminal and civil cases but for Fort Pierce cases (case numbers 14000-19999)
Senior Judge Kenneth L. Ryskamp
All civil cases

Magistrate Judge Lynch - **Judge Daniel T. K. Hurley**
All civil cases
All West Palm Beach Social Security cases
All cases numbered 14000-19999

In order to effect the orderly transfer of cases in accordance with the pairing plan, the following procedures apply:

I. As of June 1, 2002, and until further Order of the Chief Judge, in all cases assigned to district judges with whom the magistrate judge is <u>not</u> paired, each magistrate judge shall retain, until disposition, all previously referred fully briefed motions. In addition, each magistrate judge shall dispose of all other referred motions that become ripe for disposition in such cases until all fully briefed motions have been ruled upon by the magistrate judge. Upon the magistrate judge's disposition of <u>all</u>

fully briefed motions in any case assigned to a district judge with whom the magistrate judge is not paired, the magistrate judge shall certify to the district judge to whom the case is assigned that all such motions have been ruled upon and the district judge will then issue an order directing the clerk of court to transfer the case to the "paired" magistrate judge. The magistrate judges shall use their best efforts to dispose of all motions in cases assigned to district judges with whom they are not paired within 60 days of the date of this order. At the conclusion of the 60 day period, each magistrate judge shall make a written status report to the Chief Judge about each such case retained from a judge with whom the magistrate judge is not paired.

Any consent trial, consent motion for summary judgment, and other "consent motion" shall remain with the magistrate judge who was assigned to the case when the consent was given.

II. In the event of a lower-case transfer or a recusal by a district judge within 30 days of a case assignment, the Clerk's Office shall concurrently reassign the case to a district judge and the magistrate judge with whom the newly-assigned district judge is paired. In the case of all other district judge recusals, the procedures set forth in (I) above, shall apply

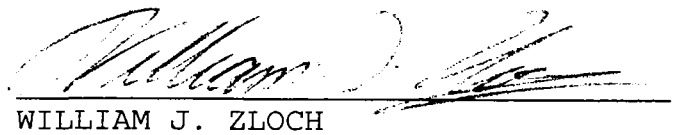
III. In any case filed after June 1, 2002, from which a magistrate judge recuses himself or herself, the Clerk's Office shall randomly assign another magistrate judge to the case. For any case filed before June 1, 2002, which is subject to transfer pursuant to the Court's Magistrate Judge Pairing Plan, but with

respect to which the transferee magistrate judge recuses himself or herself, the case shall be returned to the transferor magistrate judge.

IV. District judges shall retain full discretion concerning the type and volume of matters referred. However, referrals shall be only to the "paired" magistrate judge, unless a district judge after conferring with and obtaining the agreement of the district judges with whom another magistrate judge is paired determines that a case or motions should be assigned to or remain with such other magistrate judge (e.g., because of a prior related case, because a magistrate judge has devoted substantial time to an unusually complex case, or for some other meritorious reason), and so notify the Clerk's Office in writing.

This Order vacates Administrative Order 2000-68.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, this 10th day of May, 2002.



WILLIAM J. ZLOCH
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

c: Chief Judge R. Lanier Anderson, III, Eleventh Circuit
All Southern District Judges
All Southern District Magistrate Judges
United States Attorney
Federal Public Defender
Chief Pretrial Services Officer
Lucy Lara, Case Assignment Administrator
Clarence Maddox, Court Administrator • Clerk of Court
Library