

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 91-68

**IN RE:**

**ASSIGNMENT OF CASES  
IN FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA**

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A strong possibility exists, according to the Administrative Office, courthouse facilities not utilized sufficiently will be closed down. The Fort Pierce Courthouse fits this profile because many Fort Pierce division cases are tried at other courthouses in the Southern District. Therefore, the district may be in a position of being unable to retain the Fort Pierce Courthouse. This would be particularly unfortunate because case filings in the Fort Pierce jury division have increased and have exceeded a one-half judge caseload for the last two years.

Additionally, the construction of a new courthouse in Fort Pierce is in the formulation stages, but it could be seriously jeopardized -- if not completely blocked -- by our failure to service the Fort Pierce division.

There are now three Assistant United States Attorneys, three Probation Officers (with an expectation of increasing to six) and a deputy Marshal assigned to Fort Pierce permanently at this time.

Consequently, a judges' committee to examine case assignments in Fort Pierce is appointed with the following judges:

Judge James C. Paine, Chairperson  
Judge James W. Kehoe  
Judge Edward B. Davis  
Judge Stanley Marcus  
Judge William J. Zloch

Among the matters the committee might want to consider are the availability of various judges to service that division; the aggregation of cases on a docket to provide for efficient handling; the willingness of judges who receive Fort Pierce cases to try them in Fort Pierce; whether judges who might not otherwise receive Fort Pierce cases frequently can volunteer to receive and try an occasional case of an occasional docket in Fort Pierce; whether a separate assignment wheel should be established assigning cases only to judges who will obligate themselves to try the cases in Fort Pierce while at the same time retaining our assignment goal of case equalization among the judges. If possible, it is hoped the committee can make a report to the judges by the September 25, 1991 meeting.

DONE and ORDERED in chambers at the United States Federal Building and Courthouse, 299 East Broward Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 6th day of September 1991.

  
Norman C. Roettger, Sr.  
Chief Judge

c: All Southern District Judges