



United States District Court

CHAMBERS OF
DAVID C. GODBEY
CHIEF JUDGE

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
1100 COMMERCE STREET, ROOM 1504
DALLAS, TEXAS 75242

214.753.2700

March 29, 2024

The Hon. Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510-3203

BY EMAIL

Dear Senator Schumer:

I write in response to your letter of March 21, 2024.

Under 28 U.S.C. § 137(a), “[t]he business of a court having more than one judge shall be divided among the judges as provided by the rules and orders of the court.” This statute provides individual courts wide latitude to establish case assignment systems, permitting flexibility in managing their caseloads efficiently and in a manner that best suits the various needs of the district and the communities they serve. As you noted in your letter, our Local Civil Rule 83.3 states “The district judges shall determine the method by which all cases are assigned to individual judges.” Historically, the Chief Judge, with the concurrence of a majority of the district judges, has entered a special order that specifies how cases in a particular division or divisions of the court will be assigned. Accordingly public comment on case assignment procedures is not applicable.

The district judges of the Northern District of Texas met on March 27, 2024, and discussed case assignment. The consensus was not to make any change to our case assignment process at this time.

Data posted on our public website, uscourts.gov, provide statistical tables for Civil Cases in the U.S. District Courts. Civil case statistics at the district level are provided in tables C-1 and C-3. Those statistical tables provide the number of cases filed, terminated, pending, whether they are U.S. cases or private cases, and generally a category of the type of case (contract, property, tort, civil rights, prisoner petitions, labor, social security, etc.) That data indicates that in 2023, the number of civil cases filed in the Northern

Hon. Charles E. Schumer

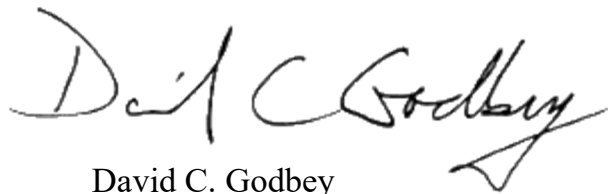
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District of Texas was 5,279. The report does not indicate the type of remedy sought in the case.

With regard to case assignment and the requirement for judges to travel, my opinion is that in the case of a jury trial, the jury trial would have to take place in the division where the case was filed in order to preserve the parties' right to a jury venire out of that division.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Godbey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

David C. Godbey
Chief Judge

cc: Hon. Priscilla Richman
N.D. Tex. District Judges
David Best