

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

IN RE:

PILOT PROJECT FOR DIRECT  
ASSIGNMENT OF CIVIL CASES  
TO MAGISTRATE JUDGES

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MISC. NO. 00-308

**STANDING ORDER 2018-04**

In order to increase the utilization of the Magistrate Judges and increase the availability of civil trials, the Court has approved the adoption of a three-year pilot project to randomly assign a limited number of civil cases directly to the Magistrate Judges of this Court for all proceedings and the entry of a final judgment, subject to the consent of all parties. Accordingly, it is hereby

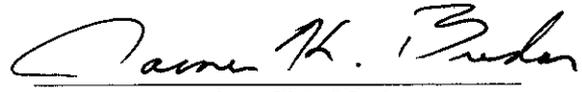
ORDERED by the United States District Court for the District of Maryland that, effective November 1, 2018, the automated case assignment system for civil cases will be modified to allow for the random assignment of cases directly to a United States Magistrate Judge. Magistrate Judges will not receive direct assignment of the following category of cases: bankruptcy appeals, ship arrests, removal actions, antitrust and securities, intellectual property, civil RICO, Qui Tam, cases filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 or 28 U.S.C. § 2255, cases involving incarcerated litigants, and any cases seeking an immediate Temporary Restraining Order; and it is further

ORDERED that in all such cases directly assigned to a Magistrate Judge, the Clerk shall issue a notice after at least one defendant has been served requiring the existing parties to file a response either consenting or declining consent to the assignment to a Magistrate Judge within fourteen (14) days. The Clerk shall issue a similar notice when any additional party is served. In

the event that any party does not consent, the case shall immediately be reassigned to a District Judge. The Clerk shall withhold the identity of any non-consenting party from the assigned Magistrate Judge and any District Judge to whom the case may be reassigned if consent from all the parties is not obtained; and it is further

ORDERED that this project shall continue for a period of three years, absent further Order by the Court.

September 26, 2018  
Date

  
James K. Bredar, Chief Judge  
United States District Court