

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**GENERAL ORDER 25-1**

**February 11, 2025**

**GENERAL ORDER RE: RANDOM ASSIGNMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL CASES  
FILED IN CENTRAL OR WESTERN DIVISIONS**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 137 and Local Rule 40.1, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. This order provides for the district-wide random assignment of certain cases filed in the Central and Western Divisions of the District Court, which are single-seat district judge divisions. It is adopted pursuant to the 2024 policy of the Judicial Conference of the United States, and has been issued following a vote of the full court.
2. This order applies to any civil action seeking to bar or mandate nationwide enforcement of a federal law, including a rule, regulation, policy, or order of the executive branch or a federal agency, whether by declaratory judgment and/or any form of injunctive relief (a “Subject Civil Action”).
3. Any Subject Civil Action that is filed in the Central or Western Divisions of the District Court shall be assigned to a randomly assigned judge, without regard to court division, as provided in this order.
4. When opening a Subject Civil Action, the filer shall state on the Civil Cover Sheet (Form JS 44) in Section VI (Cause of Action) as follows: *“This case seeks to bar or mandate federal governmental policies or actions of nationwide impact, by declaratory judgment and/or any form of injunctive relief.”* The inclusion of such notation has no effect on the assignment of a case unless it would be otherwise assigned to the Central or Western Division.

5. Where such notation is made on the Civil Cover Sheet in a case that would otherwise be assigned to the Central or Western Division, the Clerk's office shall assign the case to a randomly assigned judge without regard to court division. Judges in the Central and Western Divisions will be included in the random assignment.

6. If, upon initial review of an assigned case that seeks injunctive or declaratory relief, a judge in the Central or Western Division determines that the case qualifies as a Subject Civil Action, regardless of whether it is so designated on the Civil Cover Sheet, then the judge shall enter such a finding on the record and direct the Clerk to reassign the case pursuant to the random district-wide assignment process without regard to court division.

7. This order does not apply to *pro se* cases.

8. This order is in effect until further order of the Court.

Dated: February 11, 2025

/s/ F. Dennis Saylor IV  
F. Dennis Saylor IV  
Chief Judge, United States District Court