

JUN 16 2003

DAVID J. MALAND, CLERK

DEPUTY *Peggy Thompson*

GENERAL ORDER NO. 03-15

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

**RESOLUTION REGARDING PLACES OF HOLDING COURT IN THE SHERMAN
DIVISION**

Since 1991, both this court and the Judicial Conference of the United States have supported legislation authorizing Plano as a place of holding court in the Sherman Division. Rapid population growth in the Sherman Division over the past decade, particularly in Collin and Denton Counties, underscores the need for an additional court facility. Sherman Division civil and criminal weighted filings over the past five years have grown by 100%. Sherman now has the second heaviest weighted caseload of the six divisions in the Eastern District of Texas.

In the near future, two resident district judges, a resident magistrate judge and a visiting district judge will be hearing all Sherman Division cases in only two courtrooms. The court has already run out of room in Sherman and needs to acquire additional court facilities in the Division. Having court facilities in both Sherman and Plano will enable the court to better manage the rapidly growing caseload and provide better service to a large population base in southern Collin County.

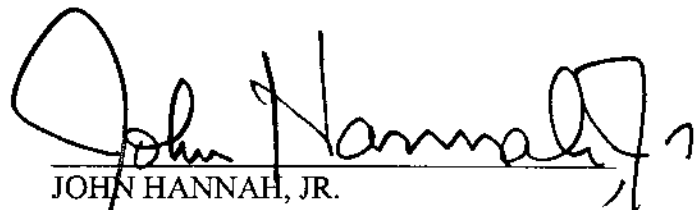
It is the court's intention, when a place of holding court in Plano is authorized, to assign the case filings as follows:

- 50% civil and criminal cases docketed and tried in Sherman (Judges Brown and Davis)
- 50% civil and criminal cases docketed and tried in Plano (Judge Schell)

In light of the above, the judges of this court hereby REAFFIRM our prior resolution to establish Plano as a place of holding court in the Sherman Division, and RESOLVE, if pending legislation passes that authorizes Plano as a place of holding court, to have half the Sherman Division caseload docketed and tried in Sherman, and the other half of the caseload docketed and tried in Plano. The court intends to maintain at least one resident judge in Sherman and one resident judge in Plano. If Judge Brown ceases holding court in Sherman, a new resident judge shall be designated to hold court in Sherman as soon as possible, and pending the new judge's residing in Sherman, 50% of civil and criminal cases shall be docketed and tried in Sherman, and the clerk's office in Sherman shall remain staffed sufficiently to support a resident judge.

Signed this 13th day of June, 2003.

FOR THE COURT:


JOHN HANNAH, JR.
Chief Judge