

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF KENTUCKY

JOINT GENERAL ORDER No. 2026-01

IN RE: AMENDMENTS TO JOINT LOCAL RULES

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Pursuant to LR 83.14 and LCrR 57.7 of the Joint Local Rules of the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky, and pursuant to the authority granted by Rule 83 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Rule 57 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, upon recommendation of the Joint Local Rules Commission, and in the absence of any comments after Notice, the Judges of the Eastern and Western Districts hereby ORDER that the following amendments be made to the Joint Local Rules:

- A. LR 5.2 Format of Pleadings, Written Motions, and Other Papers** – is amended as follows in order to add an English language filing requirement:

LR 5.2 Format of Pleadings, Written Motions, and Other Papers

(a) All pleadings, written motions, and other papers filed with the Court must be in size 8½ x 11 inch page format with margins of at least one inch on all sides, with text double spaced (except for appropriate block quotes, headings, and footnotes), in at least 12-point proportionately-spaced font.

(b) Absent an order of the court upon a showing of good cause, all pleadings, written motions, and other documents filed with the Court must be in the English language unless translations are furnished. Any English translation shall include a certification that the translation is accurate. Partial translations are acceptable if the party filing the document believes that the portion translated is sufficient to address the issues being litigated. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, within the greater of either (i) 14 days after the filing of the translated document or (ii) the time permitted under these rules or the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to respond to the filing containing the translation, any opposing party or nonparty may file objections to the translation or to the partial nature of the translation, or may file additional partial or complete translations of the document as it believes necessary.

- B. LR 3.1(a), (b), and LCrR 18.1(a), (b) Jury Divisions** – is amended to reflect recent changes by the districts:

LR 3.1 Jury Divisions

(a) United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky is divided into the following jury divisions with juries drawn from the counties within each docket:

(1) *Northern*. The Northern Division is divided into two dockets:

(A) Ashland. The following counties are in the Ashland Docket: Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Greenup, Johnson, Lawrence, Lewis, Magoffin, Martin, Morgan, and Rowan.

(B) Covington. The following counties are in the Covington Docket: Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Mason, Pendleton, and Robertson.

(2) *Central*. The Central Division is divided into two dockets:

(A) Frankfort. The following counties are in the Frankfort Docket: Anderson, Carroll, Franklin, Henry, Owen, Shelby, and Trimble.

(B) Lexington. The following counties are in the Lexington Docket: Bath, Bourbon, Boyle, Breathitt, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Fleming, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Menifee, Mercer, Montgomery, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, Wolfe, and Woodford.

(3) *Southern*. The Southern Division consists of one docket:

(A) London. The following counties are in the London Docket: Bell, Clay, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Leslie, Letcher, McCreary, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Wayne, and Whitley.

(b) United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky. The United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky is divided into the following jury divisions:

(1) *Louisville*. The following counties are in the Louisville Division: Bullitt, Hardin, Jefferson, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Spencer, and Washington.

(2) *Bowling Green*. The following counties are in the Bowling Green Division: Adair, Allen, Barren, Butler, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Edmonson, Green, Hart, Logan, Metcalf, Monroe, Russell, Simpson, Taylor, Todd, and Warren.

(3) *Owensboro*. The following counties are in the Owensboro Division: Breckinridge, Daviess, Grayson, Hancock, Henderson, Hopkins, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Union, and Webster.

(4) *Paducah*. The following counties are in the Paducah Division: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Lyon, McCracken, Marshall, and Trigg.

(c) Assignment to a Division. Jury division assignments may be changed by rule or by Court order.

LCrR 18.1 Jury Divisions

(a) United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky is divided into the following jury divisions with juries drawn from the counties within each docket:

(1) *Northern*. The Northern Division is divided into two dockets:

(A) Ashland. The following counties are in the Ashland Docket: Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Greenup, Johnson, Lawrence, Lewis, Magoffin, Martin, Morgan, and Rowan.

(B) Covington. The following counties are in the Covington Docket: Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Mason, Pendleton, and Robertson.

(2) *Central*. The Central Division is divided into two dockets:

(A) Frankfort. The following counties are in the Frankfort Docket: Anderson, Carroll, Franklin, Henry, Owen, Shelby, and Trimble.

(B) Lexington. The following counties are in the Lexington Docket: Bath, Bourbon, Boyle, Breathitt, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Fleming, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Menifee, Mercer, Montgomery, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, Wolfe, and Woodford.

(3) *Southern*. The Southern Division consists of one docket:

(A) London. The following counties are in the London Docket: Bell, Clay, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Leslie, Letcher, McCreary, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Wayne, and Whitley.

(b) United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky. The United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky is divided into the following jury divisions:

(1) *Louisville*. The following counties are in the Louisville Division: Bullitt, Hardin, Jefferson, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Spencer, and Washington.

(2) *Bowling Green*. The following counties are in the Bowling Green Division: Adair, Allen, Barren, Butler, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Edmonson, Green, Hart, Logan, Metcalf, Monroe, Russell, Simpson, Taylor, Todd, and Warren.

(3) *Owensboro*. The following counties are in the Owensboro Division: Breckinridge, Daviess, Grayson, Hancock, Henderson, Hopkins, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Union, and Webster.

(4) *Paducah*. The following counties are in the Paducah Division: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Lyon, McCracken, Marshall, and Trigg.

(c) Assignment to a Division. Jury division assignments may be changed by rule or by Court order.

- C. **LR 5.3(a) Pro Se Actions** – is amended as follows to make non-substantive edits and to add a court-supplied form that should be used by pro se parties:

LR 5.3 Pro Se Actions.

(a) **Generally.** The following papers should be written on court-supplied forms, signed and verified:

- (1) Pro se writ of habeas corpus filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2254;
- (2) Pro se motions attacking a conviction or sentence filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2255;
- (3) Pro se civil rights complaints filed under 42 U.S.C. § 1983;
- (4) Pro se civil rights complaints filed under the authority of Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Agents, 403 U.S. 388 (1971); and
- (5) Pro se writ of habeas corpus filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2241.

- D. **LR 83.13(a), Advance Payment of Fees** – is amended as follows to add clarity concerning the scope of the Local Rule:

LR 83.13 Advance Payment of Fees

(a) **Generally.** The Clerk, the United States Marshal Service, or any other officer of the Court entitled to collect fees for services rendered may require fees to be paid in advance. This rule includes fees for filing cases, including but not limited to actions filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2241.

- E. **LR 55.2(a) and LCrR 83.10(a), Exhibits** – is amended as follows to simplify the rules and to conform to existing practice:

LR 83.10 Exhibits

Unless the Court orders otherwise, exhibits must be managed as follows:

(a) **Method of Designation.** All exhibits and materials to be used during a civil trial must be marked for identification purposes with labels obtained from the Clerk.

- (1) Joint exhibits must be numbered using white labels;
- (2) Plaintiff's exhibits must be numbered using pink labels;
- (3) Defendant's exhibits must be numbered using blue labels;
- (4) Third-party exhibits must be numbered using green labels;
- (5) If the proceeding involves multiple plaintiffs or multiple defendants, the identification assigned to each exhibit must contain the individual party's surname or corporate name.

LCrR 55.2 Exhibits

Unless the Court orders otherwise, exhibits must be managed as follows:

(a) Method of Designation. All exhibits and materials to be used during a criminal trial must be marked for identification purposes with labels obtained from the Clerk.

- (1) Joint exhibits must be numbered using white labels;
- (2) Government's exhibits must be numbered using yellow labels;
- (3) Defendant's exhibits must be numbered using blue labels;
- (4) Third-party exhibits must be numbered using green labels;
- (5) If the proceeding involves multiple defendants, the identification assigned to each exhibit must contain the individual party's surname or corporate name.

The amendments reflected in this Joint General Order shall be incorporated into the Courts' Joint Local Rules published on the Courts' respective websites. Copies of this Order shall be made available to the public on the Courts' respective websites and made available to the various publishing companies that publish the Joint Local Rules of the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky. The amendments noted in this Order shall take effect upon entry of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Signed By:

David L. Bunning

DB

Chief United States District Judge

Hon. David L. Bunning
Chief Judge, United States District
Court, Eastern District of Kentucky

David J. Hale, Chief Judge
United States District Court

Hon. David J. Hale
Chief Judge, United States District
Court, Western District of Kentucky

ENTERED

JAMES J. VILT JR., CLERK

8/17/2026

James Vilt

U.S. DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY