



NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
East Baton Rouge Parish
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

EN BANC ORDER

On August 27, 2020, Category 4 Hurricane Laura broached land in Cameron, Louisiana as the strongest recorded hurricane to make landfall in Southwest Louisiana. The resulting damage was commensurate of the hurricane's forceful nature and caused severe devastation to impacted regions. The effects of this destruction were aggravated by Hurricane Delta that made landfall near Creole, Louisiana with winds of 100 mph at 6:00 p.m. on October 9, 2020. Hurricane Delta's landfall was 12 miles east of where Hurricane Laura made landfall six weeks earlier.

On October 28, 2020, Hurricane Zeta struck land in Cocodrie, Louisiana. The storm was characterized by high-intensity winds that caused notable damage to parishes, such as Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemine, Terrebonne, and Lafourche. Statewide, Hurricane Zeta inflicted an estimated \$1.25 billion in loss.

In the wake of these aforementioned weather events, there have been numerous causes of action presented to the Court, which are colloquially referred to as "the Hurricane Cases." Central to many of these proceedings is litigation over insurance claims as parties seek outlets for recovery from storm damage. In response, the Court intends to provide just and expedient dispositions within these actions. As such, the Judges of the 19th Judicial District Court have deemed it best to transfer all damages petition related to Hurricane Laura, Hurricane Delta, and Hurricane Zeta ("the Hurricane Cases") to the Complex Litigation Section.

This new section is formulated under an En Banc Order, dated August 14, 2023, in which this Court established a pilot program for a Complex Litigation Section (CLS). The purpose of a CLS is to actively manage complex litigation disputes in order to provide timely and cost-effective resolution of such matters. The CLS will utilize active judicial case management in collaboration with the parties and their counsel in pursuit of this goal. A "complex case" is generally defined as one which involves multifaceted legal and case management issues requiring all-encompassing judicial management to expedite litigation and to promote effective decision-making by the Court, counsel, and the parties.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the 19th Judicial District Court, by majority vote, has declared that with reference to all causes of action arising from Hurricane Laura, Hurricane Delta, and Hurricane Zeta, hereinafter referred to as "the Hurricane Cases," with the exception of those matters allotted to Sections 22 and 26, the Clerk of Court shall have ten (10) days from the date of this Order, or five (5) days from the date of the filing of an answer or responsive pleading if none has been filed on the date of this Order, to provide notice to all parties of the transfer to the Complex Litigation Section (CLS).



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Correct Copy
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East Baton Rouge Parish
Deputy Clerk Of Court

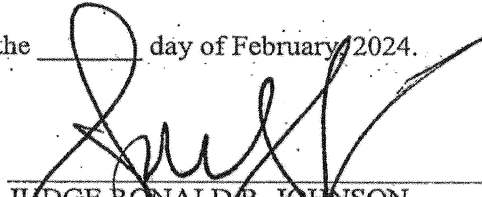
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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the parties shall have fifteen (15) days from the date notice is sent by the Clerk of Court to request a hearing before the presiding Judge originally allotted the matter, setting forth objections to the transfer to CLS. If there is no objection within the permitted time, then the Clerk of Court shall immediately transfer the Hurricane Cases to CLS.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED on the _____ day of February 2024.




JUDGE KELLY BALFOUR



JUDGE RONALD R. JOHNSON



JUDGE FRED T. CRIFASI



JUDGE WILLIAM "WILL" JORDEN

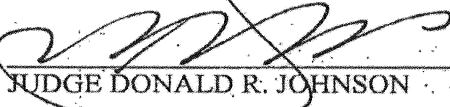


JUDGE WILSON E. FIELDS



JUDGE RICHARD M. "CHIP" MOORE

JUDGE TIFFANY FOXWORTH-ROBERTS



JUDGE DONALD R. JOHNSON



JUDGE COLETTE M. GREGG




JUDGE BRADLEY MYERS

JUDGE BEAU HIGGINBOTHAM



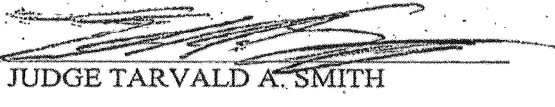
JUDGE GAIL HORNE RAY



JUDGE LOUISE HINES



JUDGE EBONI JOHNSON ROSE



JUDGE TARVALD A. SMITH





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