

7/13/2026

Clerk, U.S. District Court
District of Montana
Missoula DivisionIN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANAIN RE: ASSIGNMENT OF
CRIMINAL CASES

STANDING ORDER No. BMM-44

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all prior Orders governing criminal case assignments are WITHDRAWN and this Order shall govern all future criminal case assignments for all matters filed in the divisions of this district:

Criminal cases filed in the Billings Division shall be assigned to District Judge Kathleen S. Lane, District Judge William W. Mercer, and Senior District Judge Susan P. Watters on a random basis, such that three fifths ($3/5$) of the criminal cases filed shall be assigned to Judge Lane, three twentieths ($3/20$) to Judge Mercer, and one fourth ($1/4$) to Judge Watters.

Criminal cases filed in the Butte Division shall be assigned to District Judge William W. Mercer and Senior District Judge Dana L. Christensen on a random basis, such that one half ($1/2$) of the criminal cases filed shall be assigned to Judge Mercer and one half ($1/2$) to Judge Christensen.

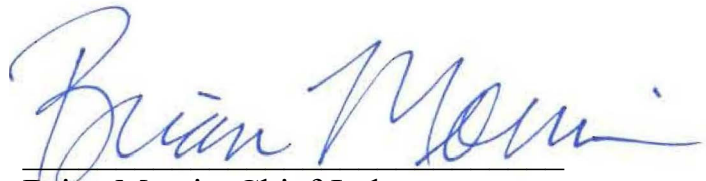
Criminal cases filed in the Great Falls Division shall be assigned to Chief District Judge Brian Morris.

Criminal cases filed in the Helena Division shall be assigned to Chief District Judge Brian Morris.

Criminal cases filed in the Missoula Division shall be assigned to District Judge William W. Mercer, Senior District Judge Dana L. Christensen, and Senior District Judge Donald W. Molloy on a random basis, such that one third (1/3) of the criminal cases filed shall be assigned to Judge Mercer, one third (1/3) to Judge Christensen, and one third (1/3) to Judge Molloy.

The clerk shall immediately inform all divisional offices, the judicial officers of this district, and the United States Probation Office of the entry of this Standing Order.

DATED this 13th day of July, 2026.



Brian Morris, Chief Judge
United States District Court