12/15/2025 **U.S.** District Court Western District of N.C.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA MISC. NO.: 3:25MC165

IN THE MATTER OF

DISTRIBUTION OF STATE

DEATH PENALTY HABEAS CASES

ORDER

This order addresses state death penalty habeas cases. It will be applied throughout the division, with no consideration given to the division in which a death penalty case may have been filed. Unless specifically stated otherwise, these case assignment allocations are effective with the date of this Order and shall supersede all other prior orders of this Court pertaining to death penalty cases.

- 1. All cases will be assigned among the active District Court Judges on an alternating basis between Judge Bell, Judge Cogburn, Judge Orso, Judge Reidinger and Judge Rodriguez, regardless of the division in which the case is filed or originated.
- 2. Case assignments may be adjusted from time to time by the Chief Judge and the other judges involved based on the circumstances of a given case, or the relative death penalty caseloads then being worked by all judges in the district, without further order of the court
- 3. In cases of conflict of interest or other reason necessitating reassignment, the case will be randomly assigned to another eligible district judge.

The Clerk is directed to serve copies of this Order to all district court judges, all magistrate judges, the Chief United States Probation Officer, the United States Attorney, the Federal Public Defender, the United States Marshal, all deputy clerks and all court reporters.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this the day of December, 2025.

Martin Reidinger

Chief United States District Judge

Max O. Cogburn, Jr.

United States District Judge

Kenneth D. Bell

United States District Judge

Matthew E. Orso

United States District Judge

Susan C. Rodriguez
United States District Judge

Frank D. Whitney
Senior United States District Judge

Senior United States District Judge

Senior United States District Judge