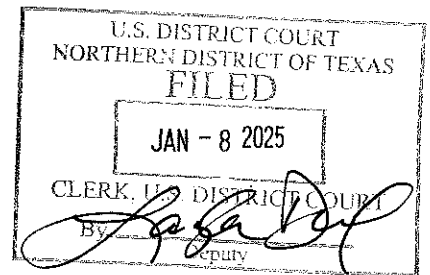


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
FORT WORTH DIVISION



ORDER VACATING SPECIAL ORDER NO. 25-1


On March 23, 2021, the district judges serving in the Fort Worth division of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas entered Special Order No. 25-1 requiring that "all hearings in each criminal case before [them] . . . be attended by the case's lead counsel for the government unless the lead counsel in the case secures the permission of the presiding judge not to be present in person at such a hearing and to allow the government to be represented by a substitute assistant U.S. attorney."

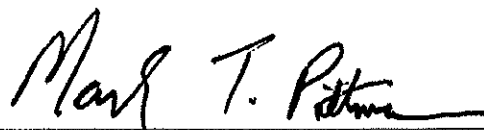
The issuance of Special Order No. 25-1 was in response to Covid-pandemic-related difficulties encountered by the district judges in hearings where substitute government counsel were tasked with representing the government on cases with which they were unfamiliar. The difficulties then encountered were quickly eliminated by the government counsel's compliance with the order and, later, by the pandemic's slow disappearance.

Accordingly, the district judges have determined that Special Order No. 25-1 ought to be, and it is hereby VACATED. Henceforth, the matter of substitution of government counsel shall revert to being governed by Northern District of Texas Local Criminal Rule 57.12(b), which provides as follows:

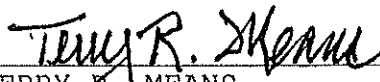
*When an Assistant United States Attorney enters an appearance in a case, another Assistant United States Attorney may replace the attorney by filing a notice of substitution that identifies the attorney being replaced. Unless the presiding judge otherwise directs, the notice effects the withdrawal of the attorney being replaced.*

SIGNED AND ENTERED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
REED O'CONNOR  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



MARK T. PITTMAN  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



TERRY R. MEANS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE