

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

James Thomas, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JOHN H. MERRILL, in his  
official capacity as Alabama  
Secretary of State, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:21-cv-1531-AMM

1. Requesting Judge

Hon. Anna M. Manasco

2. District Judge

Hon. Corey L. Maze

3. Circuit Judge

Hon. Kevin C. Newsom

DESIGNATION OF THREE-JUDGE COURT

[28 U.S.C. § 2284]

Judge Anna M. Manasco has notified me that this action is one required by Act of Congress to be heard by a district court of three judges. I hereby designate District Judge Corey L. Maze and Circuit Judge Kevin C. Newsom to serve with the requesting judge, Judge Manasco, as members of the three-judge court to hear and decide the action.

This designation is not a prejudgment as to whether this action should be heard by a three-judge court. Federal law requires the chief circuit judge to designate a three-judge panel upon the filing of a request for such a panel. 28 U.S.C. § 2284(b)(1). “[T]he chief judge’s duty is solely ministerial. . . . The three-judge court itself, of course, may subsequently determine that it should not have

been constituted.” *Merced Rosa v. Herrero*, 423 F.2d 591, 593 n.2 (1st Cir. 1970).

The parties will have the opportunity to brief and argue all questions before the three-judge court as the court concludes is appropriate.

Dated this 16th day of November, 2021.

Handwritten signature of William H. Pryor Jr. in black ink, consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

William H. Pryor Jr.  
Chief Judge, United States Court of  
Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

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