

IN THE SEVERAL COURTS OF THE THIRD
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

IN RE: ORGANIZATION OF CIRCUIT INTO SECTIONS
AND DIVISIONS, AND ASSIGNMENTS OF JUDGES.

The Rules set forth herein become effective January
2, 1973.

ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENTS

I. The Third Judicial Circuit is hereby reorganized in accordance with the rules set forth herein for the purpose of better utilization of the judicial manpower of the Circuit, an equitable distribution of duties among Judges, and the more effective and efficient dispatch of the business of the Circuit.

II. The Chief Judge shall be the administrative head of the Circuit and shall appoint for each section, an administrative judge, who shall perform administrative functions pertaining to his section concurrently with the Chief Judge.

III. SECTIONS - The Circuit is divided into three geographic sections:

A. The Madison, Taylor, Dixie Section, composed of Madison, Taylor and Dixie Counties;

B. The Hamilton, Suwannee, and Lafayette Section, composed of Hamilton, Suwannee and Lafayette Counties;

C. The Columbia Section, composed of Columbia County;

IV. Special Divisions of Sections: The following divisions of the Several Sections are created:

1. CRIMINAL DIVISION

All actions, cases and proceedings involving the administration of criminal justice within the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court in each county are assigned to the Criminal Division of said county.

2. PROBATE, GUARDIANSHIP AND TRUST DIVISION

All causes, proceedings, matters and actions pertaining to the probate of estates, including, but not limited to, construction of wills, administration of guardianships, incompetency proceedings and proceedings arising out of the Baker Act, and the administration of Trusts in each county are assigned to the Probate and Guardianship Division of said county.

3. JUVENILE DIVISION

All suits, actions, proceedings or matters within the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court as the same existed prior to January 1, 1973, in each county are assigned to the Juvenile Division of said county. Additionally, any action, suit or proceeding pending in any other Division of the Court, except the Criminal Division, which involves, or may involve, as an issue, the care, custody or welfare of a juvenile,

including the Dissolution of Marriage, may be transferred to the Juvenile Division for resolution of all issues pending in said cause(s). All cases filed under the provisions of the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement Support Act (F. S. 88, 1971) are assigned to said Juvenile Divisions.

4. GENERAL CIVIL DIVISION

All suits, causes, proceedings or actions within the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court in each County, and not herein assigned to another Division, are assigned to the General Civil Division.

5. ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES

Each Circuit Judge shall have jurisdiction as to each and all Divisions in each County in the Circuit.

V. The following assignments of Judges are made for the period ending July 1, 1973:

1. To Madison, Taylor and Dixie Section - Judge Royce Agner, administrative Judge.
2. To Hamilton, Suwannee and Lafayette Section - Judge Arvel Drury, administrative Judge.
3. To Columbia Section - Judge Samuel S. Smith, Administrative Judge.


VI. The Chief Judge and the administrative Judge of any Section, in the counties of their respective Sections, shall have the power and authority to make temporary assignments of county court judges who are members of the Florida Bar of not less than five years tenure therein to the Circuit Court, and any county court judge to the county court of another county for the performance of such duties therein as may be necessary or practicable. Such an assignment may be verbally made by notifying the judges and the clerk of the county involved and the judge may thereafter proceed accordingly, but the assignment shall be confirmed by written order to be filed with the clerk of the county in which the assignment is performed.

VII. Each administrative judge of a geographical section shall formulate plans for each county of the Section and shall provide for conducting terms of court, drawing of juries, empaneling grand juries, scheduling of hearings, and conducting trials and shall provide for all other programs and calendars for the convenient and prompt conduct of the business of the Circuit Courts of the respective counties.

He shall also maintain close liaison with the clerks, sheriffs, county court judges, probation officers, court reporters and other personnel who may be involved in the performance of the duties of the courts and shall establish guidelines to promote understanding and harmonious functioning of the system.

VIII. These rules are promulgated by the Chief Judge, after consultation with the judges and judges-elect of the Circuit, and are submitted to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida with the request that same be approved by the Supreme Court.

Promulgated and submitted to the Supreme Court of Florida, this 28th day of December, 1972.


CHIEF JUDGE