

**IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
(AMENDED) GENERAL ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES NO. 2017-007
JANUARY 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2017**

WHEREAS, Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(3) vests in the Chief Judge authority and responsibility to develop an administrative plan for all courts within this circuit that promotes the development of the capabilities of the judges such that each judge will be qualified to serve in any division; and

WHEREAS, the geographical expansiveness of this circuit requires temporary assignments of county judges in circuit court to provide timely disposition of cases and to efficiently administer the courts, *see*, Art. V, § 11(b), Fla. Const., it is therefore,

ORDERED:

Family court assignments include unified family court (Division “UFC”), and all family law matters within Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure 12.010. Cases involving Petitions for Judicial Waiver of Parental Notice of Termination of Pregnancy in the Third Judicial Circuit will be referred immediately to Chief Judge Gregory S. Parker, who has discretion to assign to the family division judges on a rotating basis.

Unified family court procedures pursuant to Administrative Order 2015-002 shall take precedence over assignments contained in this plan. In addition, all county court judges when acting as circuit judges of the Third Judicial Circuit are designated as juvenile court judges for the purpose of Chapters 39 and 985, Florida Statutes, and may conduct detention or shelter hearings as appropriate. A review pursuant to section 39.402(12), Florida Statutes, shall not be required when the shelter hearing was conducted by a juvenile court judge.

The judicial assignments for the Third Judicial Circuit for the period of January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017 are as follows, with the exception of any standing assignment order entered due to conflicts or recusals:

CIRCUIT COURT

| Columbia County | | |
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| Civil | Judge Paul S. Bryan ¹ | One third of all non-foreclosure civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Douglas) |
| | Judge Wesley R. Douglas ² | One half of all foreclosure cases; and one third of all non-foreclosure civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Johnson) |
| | Judge Mark E. Feagle | Forfeiture cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Johnson) |
| | Judge Leandra G. Johnson | One half of all foreclosure cases; and one third of all non-foreclosure civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Bryan) |
| Criminal | Judge Wesley R. Douglas ² | Division A – All cases in which defendant's last name begins with the letters A-K (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Johnson) |
| | Judge Leandra G. Johnson | Division B - All cases in which defendant's last name begins with the letters L-Z (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Douglas) |
| Family | Judge Paul S. Bryan ¹ | Domestic relations and DOR cases in which petitioner's last name begins with the letters L-Z; injunctions for protection if companion to a domestic relations case assigned to Judge Bryan (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Johnson) |
| | Judge Wesley R. Douglas ² | Domestic relations and DOR cases in which petitioner's last name begins with the letters A-K; injunctions for protection if companion to a domestic relations case assigned to Judge Douglas (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Bryan) |
| | Judge Mark E. Feagle | Family drug treatment court; injunctions for protection; dependency; mental health, Marchman and Baker Acts; truancy; and probate and guardianship (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Bryan) |
| | Judge Leandra G. Johnson | Juvenile delinquency (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Feagle) |

¹ Cases that would be assigned to Judge Bryan pursuant to the above, and in which the law firm of Foreman/McInnis; law firm of Foye Walker; or law firm of Robinson, Kennon, and Kendron represent a party, shall instead be assigned on a rotating basis to Judges Douglas, Feagle, and Johnson.

² Cases that would be assigned to Judge Douglas pursuant to the above, and in which the Douglas and Carter law firm represents a party, shall instead be assigned on a rotating basis to Judges Bryan, Feagle, and Johnson.

| Dixie County | | |
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| Civil | Acting Circuit Judge Jennifer J. Ellison | All civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Feagle) |
| Criminal | Judge Mark E. Feagle | All felony cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Ellison) |
| Family | Acting Circuit Judge Jennifer J. Ellison | Domestic relations; DOR cases; injunctions for protection; juvenile delinquency; dependency; truancy; mental health, Marchman and Baker Acts; and probate and guardianship |

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| | | (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Feagle) |
| Hamilton County | | |
| Civil and Criminal | Judge Andrew J. Decker III | All civil and felony cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Scaff, except foreclosures, which go to Judge Fina) |
| Family | Judge Andrew J. Decker III | Domestic relations; injunctions for protection if companion to a domestic relations case assigned to Judge Decker; DOR cases; and mental health, Marchman and Baker Acts (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Scaff) |
| | Acting Circuit Judge Sonny Scaff | Injunctions for protection; juvenile delinquency; and dependency (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Decker) |
| Lafayette County | | |
| Civil and Criminal | Acting Circuit Judge Darren K. Jackson | All civil and felony cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Decker) |
| Family | Acting Circuit Judge Darren K. Jackson | Domestic relations; DOR cases; injunctions for protection; juvenile delinquency; dependency; mental health, Marchman and Baker Acts; and probate and guardianship (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Fina) |
| Madison County | | |
| Civil and Criminal | Judge Andrew J. Decker III | All civil and felony cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Browning) |
| Family | Judge Andrew J. Decker III | Domestic relations; DOR cases; injunctions for protection; mental health, Marchman and Baker Acts; and probate and guardianship (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Browning) |
| | Acting Circuit Judge E. Bailey Browning | Simplified dissolutions; juvenile delinquency; and dependency (Recusals to Judge Scaff) |
| Suwannee County | | |
| Civil | Judge David W. Fina | All civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Williams) |
| Criminal | Judge Paul S. Bryan | Division A - All cases in which defendant's last name begins with the letters A-K (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Fina) |
| | Judge David W. Fina | Division B – All cases in which defendant's last name begins with the letters L-Z; and Adult Drug Treatment Court (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Bryan) |
| Family | Judge David W. Fina | Domestic relations; injunctions for protection if companion to a domestic relations case assigned to Judge Fina; and probate and guardianship (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Williams) |
| | Acting Circuit Judge William F. Williams | Simplified dissolutions; domestic relations agreements; DOR cases; injunctions for protection; juvenile delinquency; dependency; truancy; and mental health, Marchman and Baker Acts (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Fina) |
| Taylor County | | |
| Civil and Criminal | Judge Greg S. Parker | All civil and felony cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Blue) |
| Family | Judge Greg S. Parker | Domestic relations; DOR cases; injunctions for protection; |

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|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| | Acting Circuit Judge Bill Blue | mental health, Marchman and Baker Acts; and probate and guardianship (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Blue) Juvenile delinquency; and dependency (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Parker) |
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TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF COUNTY COURT JUDGES AS CIRCUIT JUDGES

Each county court judge in the Third Judicial Circuit is hereby temporarily appointed circuit judge for the Third Judicial Circuit, pursuant to Florida Statute 26.57 and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(4). They are hereby vested with the respective powers and prerogatives conferred by the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida as a circuit judge on a temporary basis to hear, conduct and determine all matters consistent with Florida Statute 26.012, which are presented to them.

Additionally, the county court judges are temporarily appointed as circuit court judges to adjudicate any issue pending in any circuit court case in the Third Judicial Circuit that will provide prompt disposition of cases and efficiently administer the courts.

COUNTY COURT

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| Columbia County | Judge Tom Coleman | Misdemeanor; traffic; county civil; and small claims (Disqualifications, recusals, and appeals to Judge Bryan) |
| Dixie County | Judge Jennifer J. Ellison | Misdemeanor; traffic; county civil; and small claims (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Blue; and appeals to Judge Feagle) |
| Hamilton County | Judge Sonny Scaff | Misdemeanor; traffic; county civil; and small claims (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Browning; and appeals to Judge Decker) |
| Lafayette County | Judge Darren K. Jackson | Misdemeanor; traffic, county civil; and small claims (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Ellison; and appeals to Judge Fina) |
| Madison County | Judge E. Bailey Browning | Misdemeanor; traffic, county civil; and small claims (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Scaff; and appeals to Judge Decker) |
| Suwannee County | Judge William F. Williams | Misdemeanor; traffic, county civil; and small claims (Disqualifications, recusals, and appeals to Judge Fina) |
| Taylor County | Judge Bill Blue | Misdemeanor; traffic, county civil; and small claims (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Jackson; and appeals to Judge Parker) |

JUDICIAL ROTATIONS

The entire case load, including recusals, transfers to an incoming judge. If there are

specific complex cases or cases close to resolution, in the interest of judicial economy and after consultation with the effected judges, the case may remain with the previously assigned judge.

**ASSIGNMENT OF COUNTY COURT JUDGES
OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
TO OTHER COUNTIES WITHIN THE CIRCUIT**

When necessary for the orderly administration of the county courts of the Third Judicial Circuit, the county court judges of the circuit are appointed to hear, conduct, and determine matters of county court jurisdiction which are presented to them in all counties of the circuit.

**TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT
OF CIRCUIT JUDGES AS COUNTY COURT JUDGES**

All circuit court judges of the Third Judicial Circuit are temporarily appointed to adjudicate any pending issue in any county court case in the Third Judicial Circuit.

**JURISDICTION OF
CHILD SUPPORT HEARING OFFICER, CIVIL TRAFFIC INFRACTION
HEARING OFFICER, AND GENERAL MAGISTRATE**

| Name of Officer | Title | Duties and/or Venue |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Stephen P. Johnson | Child Support Hearing Officer | DOR/Title IV-D child support hearings in all counties. |
| Christina Seifert | Civil Traffic Hearing Officer | Columbia County civil traffic infraction hearings. (Lisa Schlitzkus serves as back-up hearing officer.) |
| Jennifer K. Griffin | General Magistrate | Mortgage foreclosure; probate and guardianship; and pro se domestic relations cases as specifically assigned in all counties. |

CONTROL OF DOCKETS

The control of the dockets for the various divisions of court shall rest with the presiding judge at the discretion of the Chief Judge.

REGULATION AND USE OF COURTROOMS

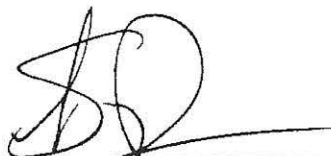
Management and use of the courtrooms and associated court space in each of the seven counties of the circuit shall be determined by the Chief Judge in consultation with the local county and circuit judges. Criminal matters will take precedence over civil matters.

PROCEDURE FOR CALENDARING CIRCUIT COURT CASES

All cases under circuit court jurisdiction shall be calendared before the judge assigned to the division in which the case has been filed. When a rule, statute or procedure mandates expedited judicial action on a matter and the judge assigned to the division is unavailable, the Chief Judge shall assign a judge to hear the case or cases pursuant to this order. This judge will be the next available circuit judge or a county judge in the county of jurisdiction.

This order replaces all prior orders of General Assignment of Judges.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in Perry, Taylor County, Florida, this 2nd day of February 4, 2017.



GREGORY S. PARKER, CHIEF JUDGE