

IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
GENERAL ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES NO. 2017-055
JULY 1, 2017 – SEPTEMBER 4, 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 Wesley R. Douglas, 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 July 1, 2017 – September 4, 2017 are as follows, with the exception of any standing assignment order entered due to conflicts or recusals:

CIRCUIT COURT

Columbia County		
Civil	Judge Paul S. Bryan ¹	One third of all non-foreclosure civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Feagle)
	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 Feagle)
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 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		
Civil	Acting Circuit Judge Jennifer J. Johnson	All civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Feagle)
Criminal	Judge Mark E. Feagle	All felony cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Jennifer J. Johnson)
Family	Acting Circuit Judge Jennifer J. Johnson	Domestic relations; DOR cases; injunctions for protection; juvenile delinquency; dependency; truancy; mental health, Marchman and Baker Acts; and probate and guardianship (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Feagle)

Hamilton County		
Civil	Senior Judge William Slaughter	All civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Scaff, except foreclosures, which go to Judge Fina)
Criminal	Judge David W. Fina	All felony cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Scaff)
Family	Senior Judge William Slaughter	Domestic relations; injunctions for protection if companion to a domestic relations case assigned to Judge Slaughter; 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 Slaughter)
Lafayette County		
Civil and Criminal	Acting Circuit Judge Darren K. Jackson	All civil and felony cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge J. Johnson)
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	Senior Judge William Slaughter	All civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Browning)
Criminal	Judge E. Bailey Browning	All felony cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Slaughter)
Family	Senior Judge William Slaughter	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 of marriage; 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; mental health, Marchman and Baker Acts; and probate and guardianship (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Blue)
	Acting Circuit Judge Bill Blue	Juvenile delinquency; and dependency (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Parker)

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

Columbia County	Judge Tom Coleman	Misdemeanor; traffic; county civil; and small claims (Disqualifications, recusals, and appeals to Judge Bryan)
Dixie County	Judge Jennifer J. Johnson	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 Senior Judge Slaughter)
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 Senior Judge Slaughter)
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 30th day of June 2017.



GREGORY S. PARKER, CHIEF JUDGE