

**IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
GENERAL ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES NO. 2017-068  
JANUARY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2018**

*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, it is therefore,

**ORDERED:**

The judicial assignments for the Third Judicial Circuit for the period of January 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018 are as follows, with the exception of any standing assignment order entered due to conflicts or recusals:

**CIRCUIT COURT**

<b>Columbia County</b>		
Civil	Judge Andrew J. Decker III <sup>3</sup>	All civil cases previously assigned to Judge Paul S. Bryan, and one third of all newly filed civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Feagle)
	Judge Wesley R. Douglas <sup>2</sup>	One third of all civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Feagle)
	Judge Mark E. Feagle	All civil cases previously assigned to Judge Leandra G. Johnson, and one third of all newly filed civil cases; forfeiture cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Decker)
Criminal	Judge Paul S. Bryan <sup>1</sup>	Division A – All felony 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 felony cases in which defendant’s last name begins with the letters L-Z (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Bryan)

Family	Judge Paul S. Bryan <sup>1</sup>	Domestic relations and DOR cases in which petitioner's last name begins with the letters L-Z; injunctions for protection; probate and guardianship (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Douglas)
	Judge Wesley R. Douglas <sup>2</sup>	Marchman and Baker Acts (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Feagle)
	Judge Mark E. Feagle	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 Feagle; TIPP and truancy (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Douglas)
	Judge Leandra G. Johnson	Delinquency; and dependency (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Douglas)

<sup>1</sup> 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; law firm of McRae and McNeill; or law firm of Robinson, Kennon, and Kendron represent a party, shall automatically be assigned by the clerk to the judge responsible for his recusals as outlined above.

<sup>2</sup> 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 automatically be assigned by the clerk to the judge responsible for his recusals as outlined above.

<sup>3</sup> Cases that would be assigned to Judge Decker pursuant to the above, and in which Melissa Olin; the law firm of Robinson, Kennon, and Kendron; Andrew J. Decker IV; or the Chauncey Law Firm represent a party, shall automatically be assigned by the clerk to the judge responsible for his recusals as outline above.

## Dixie County

Civil	Acting Circuit Judge Jennifer J. Johnson	All civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Douglas)
Criminal	Judge Wesley R. Douglas	All felony cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge 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 Douglas)

## Hamilton County

Civil	Judge Andrew J. Decker III	All civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Douglas)
Criminal	Judge Wesley R. Douglas	All felony cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Decker)
Family	Judge Andrew J. Decker III	Domestic relations; injunctions for protection if companion to a domestic relations case assigned to Judge Decker; DOR cases; (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Douglas)
	Acting Circuit Judge Sonny Scaff	Injunctions for protection; juvenile delinquency; dependency; and Marchman and Baker Acts (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 Fina)
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)

<b>Madison County</b>		
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; and probate and guardianship (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Browning)
	Acting Circuit Judge E. Bailey Browning	Juvenile delinquency; dependency; and mental health, Marchman and Baker Acts (Recusals to Judge Decker)
<b>Suwannee County</b>		
Civil	Judge David W. Fina	All civil cases (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Williams)
Criminal	Judge Mark E. Feagle	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 (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Feagle)
Family	Judge Paul S. Bryan <sup>1</sup>	Domestic relations 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 Fina)
	Judge David W. Fina	Domestic relations 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 Fina; and probate and guardianship (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Bryan)
	Acting Circuit Judge William F. Williams	DOR cases; injunctions for protection; juvenile delinquency; dependency; truancy; and mental health, Marchman and Baker Acts (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Fina)
<sup>1</sup> 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; law firm of McRae and McNeill; or law firm of Robinson, Kennon, and Kendron represent a party, shall automatically be assigned by the clerk to the judge responsible for his recusals as outlined above.		
<b>Taylor County</b>		
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; truancy; and dependency (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge Parker)

### UNIFIED FAMILY COURT

Family court assignments include unified family court (Division "UFC") and all family law matters within Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure 12.010. Unified family court matters, which are governed by Administrative Order 2015-002, shall take precedence over other

assignments contained in this plan.

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 these petitions to the family division judges on a rotating basis.

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.

#### **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 section 26.57, Florida Statute, 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 section 26.012, Florida Statute, 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 Douglas)
Hamilton County	Judge Sonny Scaff	Misdemeanor; traffic; county civil; and small claims (Disqualifications, recusals, and appeals to Judge Decker. Upon disqualification or recusal of Judge Decker, cases will be assigned to Judge Douglas.)
Lafayette County	Judge Darren K. Jackson	Misdemeanor; traffic, county civil; and small claims (Disqualifications and recusals to Judge J. Johnson; 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, recusals, and appeals to Judge Parker. Upon disqualification or recusal of Judge Parker, cases will be assigned to Judge Jackson.)

### JUDICIAL ROTATIONS

Upon an election, an appointment, or any other assignment changes, the entire affected 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 affected 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

As provided in this Order (i.e., certain recusals from one county judge to another county judge) and when otherwise assigned by specific order of the Chief Judge, the county court judges of the circuit are appointed to hear, conduct, and determine matters of county court jurisdiction that 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 Lake City, Columbia County, Florida, this 21 day of September, 2017.

  
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WESLEY R. DOUGLAS, CHIEF JUDGE