



**IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2024-04
SIXTH AMENDMENT**

IN RE: CIRCUIT AND COUNTY JUDGE ASSIGNMENTS

WHEREAS, Rule 2.215, Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, provides that the Chief Judge shall assign judges to the courts and divisions and determine the length of each assignment along with designating administrative judges to assist in the supervision of the court; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Order 2024-04, In Re: Circuit and County Judge Assignments, as amended, currently sets forth the judicial assignments of the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida; it is therefore,

ORDERED, the judicial assignments of the Second Judicial Circuit set out below are effective December 8, 2025:

I. FRANKLIN COUNTY.

- A. Chief Judge Francis J. “Frank” Allman shall be assigned all circuit cases and appeals from final administrative orders of local government code enforcement boards and of reviews and appeals as otherwise expressly provided by law.
- B. County Judge J. Gordon Shuler shall be assigned all county court cases, weekday first appearances, and shall serve as primary backup to the circuit judge.
- C. Magistrates assigned to Franklin County shall hear pro se family cases, except for uncontested family cases, simplified dissolution of marriage cases, dependency, termination of parental rights trials, delinquency, and protective injunctions.

II. GADSDEN COUNTY.

- A. Circuit Judge Ronald W. Flury shall be assigned all circuit criminal cases and delinquency cases.
- B. Circuit Judge David Frank shall be assigned all cases for circuit civil, family, probate, guardianship, and appeals from final administrative orders of local government code enforcement boards and of reviews and appeals as otherwise expressly provided by law.
- C. County Judge Kathy L. Garner shall be assigned all county court cases, weekday first appearances, and primary backup to assist with delinquency cases.
- D. Magistrates assigned to Gadsden County shall hear family cases, except for uncontested family cases, simplified dissolution of marriage cases, termination of parental rights trials, delinquency, and protective injunctions.

III. JEFFERSON COUNTY

- A. Circuit Judge Jason L. Jones¹ shall be assigned all circuit cases and appeals from final administrative orders of local government code enforcement boards and of reviews and appeals as otherwise expressly provided by law.
- B. County Judge Robert R. Plaines shall be assigned all county court cases, weekday first appearances and shall serve as primary backup to the circuit judge.
- C. Magistrates assigned to Jefferson County shall hear pro se family cases, except uncontested family cases, simplified dissolution of marriage cases, dependency, termination of parental rights trials, delinquency, and protective injunctions.

IV. LEON COUNTY

A. CIRCUIT JUDGE ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. **Criminal Division:** Each division shall be assigned 25% of all criminal cases.
 - a. Division A: Circuit Judge Tiffany Baker-Carper
 - b. Division B: Circuit Judge Lance E. Neff
 - c. Division C: Circuit Judge Stephen S. Everett
 - d. Division D: Circuit Judge J. Lee Marsh
 - e. Division SW: Circuit Judge Stephen S. Everett
 - f. Circuit Judge Stephen S. Everett shall serve as the administrative judge over the Leon County Criminal Division and shall be assigned Leon County Grand Jury duties. He may delegate these duties to other judges in the Criminal Division as necessary.
- 2. **Civil Division:** Each division shall be assigned 33.33% of all civil cases and prisoner petitions.
 - a. Division S: Circuit Judge Angela C. Dempsey
 - b. Division U: Circuit Judge John C. Cooper
 - c. Division V: Circuit Judge Jonathan Sjostrom
 - d. Circuit Judge Angela Dempsey shall serve as the administrative judge over the Leon County Civil Division. The administrative judge may reassign civil cases as necessary to ensure equitable assignment. In addition, the administrative judge shall be assigned all appeals from final administrative orders of local government code enforcement boards and of reviews and appeals as otherwise expressly provided by law.

¹ All cases previously assigned to Circuit Judge Dawn Caloca-Johnson are transferred to Circuit Judge Jason L. Jones.

3. Family Division:

- a. Division G²: Circuit Judge Barbara K. Hobbs shall be assigned all dependency cases.
- b. Division H: Circuit Judge Michael Beato shall be assigned all delinquency cases.
- c. Division I: Circuit Judge Jeremiah Hawkes³ shall be assigned 50% of all family cases.
- d. Division J: Circuit Judge Anthony Miller shall be assigned 50% of all family cases.
- e. Division K: Circuit Judge Michael Beato shall be assigned all protective injunction cases.
- f. Circuit Judge Anthony Miller shall serve as the administrative judge over the Leon County Family Division. The administrative judge may reassign family cases and adjust the magistrate and hearing officer assignments in consultation with the Chief Judge. In addition, the administrative judge may issue calendars for protective injunctions, emergency filings, or any other matter deemed appropriate for the division.
- g. Magistrates assigned to Leon County shall hear pro se family cases and all reopened family cases, except for uncontested family cases, simplified dissolution of marriage cases, dependency, termination of parental rights trials, delinquency, and protective injunctions.

- 4. Probate Division:** Circuit Judge Jason L. Jones⁴ shall be assigned all probate and guardianship cases, except for Baker Act, Marchman Act and Risk Protection Order cases.

B. COUNTY JUDGE ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. County Court Cases:** Each county judge shall be assigned 20% of all county cases.
- a. Division 1: Leon County Judge LaShawn D. Riggins
 - b. Division 2: Leon County Judge Monique Richardson
 - c. Division 3: Leon County Judge Stefanie M. Newlin
 - d. Division 4: Leon County Judge Carlos Rey⁵
 - e. Division 5: Leon County Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson

² Includes all matters under Chapter 39, including dependency and termination of parental rights, all Unified Family Court Section cases as defined and identified pursuant to Administrative Order 2013-08, adoption cases (excluding uncontested adoptions filed under Chapter 63).

³ All cases previously assigned to Circuit Judge Jason L. Jones are transferred to Circuit Judge Jeremiah Hawkes.

⁴ All cases previously assigned to Circuit Judge Dawn Caloca-Johnson are transferred to Circuit Judge Jason L. Jones.

⁵ Leon County Judge Carlos Rey assignment is effective January 2, 2026, transferring to him all cases previously assigned to Leon County Judge Jason L. Jones.

- f. Leon County Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson shall serve as the Leon County Administrative Judge. The administrative judge shall assign all weekday first appearances on a rotating basis.
- 2. Leon County Judges Monique Richardson and Stefanie M. Newlin shall each be assigned two protective injunction dockets per month.
- 3. Leon County Judge LaShawn D. Riggins shall be assigned all Baker and Marchman Act cases.
- 4. Leon County Judges shall be equally assigned all Risk Protection Order cases.
- 5. Division SA: Leon County Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson shall be assigned all Leon County Felony Drug Court cases.
- 6. Division V: Leon County Judge LaShawn D. Riggins shall be assigned all Veterans Treatment Court cases.
- 7. Division P: Leon County Judge LaShawn D. Riggins shall be assigned the Leon County Misdemeanor Mental Health Docket.

V. LIBERTY COUNTY.

- A. Circuit Judge Ronald W. Flury shall be assigned all circuit criminal cases and delinquency cases.
- B. Circuit Judge David Frank shall be assigned all circuit cases for circuit civil, family, probate, guardianship, and appeals from final administrative orders of local government code enforcement boards and of reviews and appeals as otherwise expressly provided by law.
- C. County Judge Christopher D. Bufano shall be assigned all county court cases, Florida State Hospital hearings, weekday first appearances, and shall serve as primary backup to the circuit judges.
- D. Magistrates assigned to Liberty County shall hear pro se family cases, except for uncontested family cases, simplified dissolution of marriage cases, termination of parental rights trials, delinquency, and protective injunctions.

VI. WAKULLA COUNTY.

- A. Circuit Judge J. Layne Smith shall be assigned all cases for circuit criminal, civil, family, probate, guardianship, and appeals from final administrative orders of local government code enforcement boards and of reviews and appeals as otherwise expressly provided by law.
- B. County Judge Brian Miller shall be assigned all county court cases, weekday first appearances, and serve as primary backup to the circuit judge for delinquency, dependency and other circuit court cases, as needed.
- C. Magistrates assigned to Wakulla County shall hear all family cases, except for uncontested family cases, simplified dissolution of marriage cases, dependency, termination of parental rights trials, delinquency, and protective injunctions.

VII. DUTY JUDGE ASSIGNMENTS.

A. Circuit-wide Weekend and Holiday Duty Judge.

1. The trial court administrator shall prepare a rotation list designating each circuit and county judge to serve as circuit-wide duty judge on weekends and holidays. The circuit-wide weekend and holiday duty judge shall handle all first appearances for all counties of the Circuit.
2. The circuit-wide weekend and holiday duty judge shall also handle any arrest warrants, search warrants, petitions for injunctions, emergency hearings, or other emergency matters brought to the circuit-wide weekend and holiday duty judge's attention only while the court is convened for the weekend and holiday first appearance hearings.
3. Once weekend and holiday court conclude for the day, Leon County emergency matters shall be addressed by the Leon County Duty Judge (Section VII.B.). Emergency matters in all other counties shall be addressed in accordance with the provisions of Section VIII, Emergency Hearings.

B. Leon County Duty Judge.

1. In accordance with Administrative Order 2015-04, In Re: Leon County Duty Judge, the Chief Judge shall promulgate a Leon County duty judge assignment document so that a judge shall be available as directed in this administrative order to handle after-hours applications for search warrants and other emergency matters in Leon County, to include Risk Protection Orders.
2. The Leon County duty judge shall not be responsible for emergency matters in counties other than Leon County. Emergencies in Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties shall be the responsibility of the local county judge or duly assigned circuit judge.
3. The Leon County duty judge shall be available by telephone to address emergency calls at all times during their rotation.

VIII. EMERGENCY HEARINGS.

- A. Emergency hearings are strictly defined as "non-routine matters requiring immediate action by a judge to prevent physical harm, irreparable property damage, or a hardship of such a critical nature that swift intervention of the court is necessary."
- B. A request for an emergency hearing shall be presented in writing to the judge assigned to the case.
- C. If an assigned judge is unavailable in Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties, other assigned circuit and county judges in that county shall be contacted to resolve the emergency. If the circuit and county judges are unavailable, the matter shall be referred to the Chief Judge.
- D. If an assigned judge is unavailable in Leon County, and a duty judge has not been designated to address such an emergency, the request for an emergency hearing shall be referred to the Chief Judge.

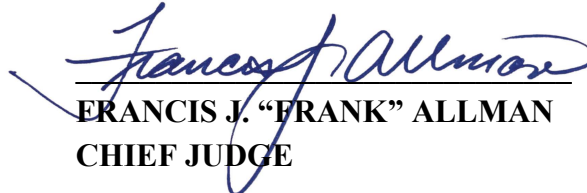
IX. BACKUP AND SUPPLEMENTAL ASSIGNMENTS.

- A. Circuit judges are authorized to supplement and aid the county court in the county to which the circuit judge is assigned. Circuit judges are also authorized to supplement and aid any other circuit or county judge in the circuit when they are unavailable, when they request assistance, or when they are assigned by the Chief Judge.
- B. County judges in any county of the Second Judicial Circuit are temporarily assigned to supplement and aid the circuit judges of the Second Judicial Circuit as needed.
- C. Jury Qualification.
 - 1. Circuit judges assigned to Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties shall be responsible for qualifying the jury venire during their trial weeks.
 - 2. County judges in Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties shall qualify jurors during their trial weeks.
 - 3. Leon County judges shall qualify Leon County jurors on a rotating basis as determined by the Leon County Administrative Judge.
- E. Children Services Council of Leon County: Circuit Judge Barbara K. Hobbs is appointed to the Children's Services Council of Leon County, pursuant to section 125.901(1)(a), Florida Statutes.

X. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

- A. Courtrooms and hearing rooms shall be assigned by the Office of Court Administration, in consultation with the Chief Judge.
- B. All judges assigned to new divisions will assume the case load previously assigned to the preceding judge, including all pending and scheduled hearings and trial dates and times.
- C. Judges may agree among themselves to exchange duty weeks or otherwise arrange coverage with other judges in the Second Judicial Circuit.
- D. Circuit Judge Joshua Hawkes is on active military duty from October 2, 2025, through March 27, 2026. Upon his return, an amended Judicial Assignment AO will be issued to reflect his resumption of judicial duties.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, this 5th day of December 2025.


FRANCIS J. "FRANK" ALLMAN
CHIEF JUDGE