

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: A-2018-19

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER MODIFYING CERTAIN CIRCUIT JUDGE
ASSIGNMENTS WITHIN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
AND ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES CONCERNING FUTURE JUDICIAL
ASSIGNMENTS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution and Section 43.26, Florida Statutes, the Chief Judge of each judicial circuit is charged with the authority and power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge must create and maintain an organization capable of effecting the efficient, prompt, and proper administration of justice for the citizens of this State, see Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.215(b)(2), (b)(3); and

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge, as the administrative officer of all courts within a judicial circuit, is best equipped to assess the needs of each trial court and must be given flexibility to effectively utilize and allocate available judicial resources within the circuit accordingly; and

WHEREAS, Rule 2.215(b)(4), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, allows the Chief Judge to assign judges to courts and divisions and determine length of each assignment; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that judicial resources within the circuit are allocated in such a way as to ensure that cases throughout the circuit receive equitable attention, and that proportionate and manageable judicial caseloads are maintained, taking into consideration county population growth, case filings within counties, and new case types as well as other criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge has determined, based upon these considerations and having also heard and considered the recommendations of the administrative judges from each county and the family law administrative judge, that the current assignment of certain circuit court judges in the Fifth Judicial Circuit must be modified and judicial resources reallocated among the counties.

It is now, **THEREFORE ORDERED** and **ADJUDGED** that circuit court judicial assignments are modified as follows:

1. Upon the retirement of Judge Patricia Thomas, Judge Peter M. Brigham, who currently serves three days each week in Hernando County and two days in Citrus County, will fill Judge Thomas' vacancy and move to Citrus County full time.

2. Beginning in 2019, the circuit judge position thus vacated by the Honorable Peter M. Brigham will no longer serve Citrus County two days a week, but will remain full-time in Hernando County.
3. Additionally, following the next circuit judge vacancy in Marion County, the judge filling that vacancy will have his or her time divided equally between Marion County and Sumter County, spending three days in Marion County and two days in Sumter County one week and two days in Marion County and three days in Sumter County the following week.
4. Beginning in 2019, circuit court judge assignments for the entire circuit will be evaluated by the Chief Judge annually based upon recommendations of the administrative judges for the five counties and of the family law administrative judge. The evaluation will include consideration of caseloads, population growth, and other relevant facts relating to judicial needs. Additional changes of assignment of judges from one county to another may be made based on the annual evaluations.
5. Beginning in 2019, each year by June 1, the administrative judge of each county will submit for consideration by the Chief Judge a proposal for circuit court judicial assignments and duty assignments for his or her county. The administrative judges for counties that will be sharing a judge's time will consult and agree concerning judicial and duty assignments. The family law administrative judge will review the recommended assignments for issues relating to family law and Unified Family Court and will make any additional recommendations to the Chief Judge by July 1.
6. The Chief Judge will complete the evaluation so that administrative orders relating to judicial assignments for the following year may be issued by July 31 of each year.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in Ocala, Marion County, Florida, this 19th day of June 2018.



S. Sue Robbins, Chief Judge
Fifth Judicial Circuit