

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER A-2021-01

**IN RE: CASE ASSIGNMENT FOR SUMTER COUNTY
CASE NUMBER 2020-CF-001190AXMX AND
UNSEALING ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER, A-2020-32**

THIS CAUSE came on to be heard before the undersigned Chief Judge regarding the reassignment of Sumter County case 2020-CF-001190AXMX. In order to maintain judicial integrity, and to prevent actual or perceived conflict of interest, it is therefore;

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED as follows:

1. With the approval and consent of the Sumter County Court Judge, Sumter County Circuit Court Judges, and Citrus County Circuit Court Judge, the Honorable Richard A. Howard, case number 2020-CF-001190AXMX filed in Sumter County is to be assigned to the Honorable Richard A. Howard.
2. The Sumter County Clerk of the Courts is hereby directed to assign 2020-CF-001190AXMX to The Honorable Richard A. Howard.
3. Administrative Order A-2020-32, a copy of which is attached hereto, is hereby unsealed and published in accordance with Circuit policy.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida, on this 9th day of January, 2021.



Daniel B. Merritt, Jr
Chief Judge
Fifth Judicial Circuit

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER A-2020-32

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER APPOINTING THE HONORABLE
RICHARD A. HOWARD TO REVIEW AND SIGN LEGAL PROCESS/
WARRANTS IN HERNANDO & SUMTER COUNTIES**

RE: EDWARD JUAN LYNUM

****SEALED UNTIL FURTHER ORDER OF THIS COURT****

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the undersigned that Edward Juan Lynum is the subject of criminal investigations in certain counties of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, and:

WHEREAS, the basis of the investigations are in regard to alleged actions of Mr. Lynum related to a domestic relations case currently being heard in Sumter County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, during the pendency of the aforementioned Sumter County domestic relations case each Judge in Sumter County recused him or herself from the case; and

WHEREAS, Senior Circuit Judge Honorable Daniel B. Merritt, SR. was then previously appointed to preside over the remainder of the Sumter County domestic relations case(s) involving Mr. Lynum; and

WHEREAS, the allegations are understood to be investigation of possible criminal conduct by Mr. Lynum directed toward said Sumter County Judges and Senior Circuit Judge Daniel B. Merritt, SR.; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge of the Circuit, the Honorable Daniel B. Merritt, JR., has determined that assignment to a judge other than the judges of Sumter County or to Judge Daniel B. Merritt, JR., is proper to avoid any conflict of interest issues and the appearance of impropriety; and

DBM JR

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 the power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice; and

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

IT IS THEREFORE,

ORDERED and **ADJUDGED** as follows:

1. In the event the investigations referenced above require review by a judge of affidavit(s) and/or review and issuance of arrest warrant(s) and/or review and issuance of search warrant(s), and/or review and issuance of other legal process or documents related to any criminal investigation of Edward Juan Lynum and being necessary, proper, or required by law to be reviewed by a judge, then Citrus County Administrative and Circuit Judge, the Honorable Richard A. Howard, is hereby appointed to receive, review, and sign, if necessary, any and all documents, legal process, and or warrants directed or related to Edward Juan Lynum which may emanate from any criminal investigation of Edward Juan Lynum in Hernando and/or Sumter County Florida.

2. This Administrative Order shall be sealed until further order of this court in order to preserve the integrity of any ongoing criminal investigation and the safety of the law enforcement officers involved.

DONE AND ORDERED, in chambers, Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida this 26th day of July, 2020



Daniel B. Merritt, Jr
Chief Judge
Fifth Judicial Circuit