

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER: A-2020-34-C

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER APPOINTING CIRCUIT JUDGES TO PRESIDE
OVER EXCESS FEE MOTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Legislature has enacted several statutory changes effecting the Justice Administrative Commission and court appointed conflict registries and applications; and

WHEREAS, section 27.5304(12)(b), Florida Statutes, grants the undersigned Chief Judge the authority to appoint (2) designee judges to preside over evidentiary hearings and determine motions to exceed the fee limit established by section 27.5304(12)(a), et seq., Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the geographical location and number of relevant case files supports a single designee to preside and determine the above reference motions for Citrus, Hernando, and Sumter Counties (hereinafter "the Tri-County"); and

WHEREAS, the geographical location and number of relevant case files supports a single designee to preside and determine the above reference motions for Lake and Marion Counties; and in consideration thereof, it is

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:

CITRUS, HERNANDO AND SUMTER COUNTIES:

1. The Honorable Mary P. Hatcher, Circuit Judge in Sumter County, is appointed and shall continue to preside over evidentiary hearings and determine all motions to exceed the fee limit filed pursuant to Section 27.5304, Florida Statutes for cases pending in the Tri-County.
2. Effective July 1, 2024, the duty, responsibilities and provisions of this Order shall transfer to Hernando County and more specifically, the Administrative Judge of Hernando County, or their designee, is hereby appointed to preside over evidentiary hearings and determine all motions to exceed the fee limit filed pursuant to Section 27.5304, Florida Statutes for cases pending in the Tri-County.
3. Effective July 1, 2025 the duty, responsibilities and provisions of this Order shall transfer to Citrus County and more specifically, the Administrative Judge of Citrus County, or their designee, is hereby appointed to preside over evidentiary hearings and determine all motions to exceed the fee limit filed pursuant to Section 27.5304, Florida Statutes for cases pending in the Tri-County.
4. Thereafter, the duties defined herein as they relate to the Tri-County shall rotate to the administrative judge or his or her designee each July 1st as follows:

Sumter	Hernando	Citrus
2026	2027	2028
2029	2030	2031
2032	2033	2034

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4. In accordance with section 27.5304(12)(a) any attorney filing aid motion in any case in which they are appointed in the tri-county must send a courtesy copy to the Office of the Undersigned, as Chief Judge, and the office of the current appointed Judge for scheduling and disposition.

LAKE AND MARION COUNTIES:

5. The Honorable Brian Welke, Circuit Judge in Lake County, is appointed and shall continue to preside over evidentiary hearings and determine all motions to exceed the fee limit filed pursuant to Section 27.5304, Florida Statutes for cases pending in Lake and Marion Counties.

6. Effective July 1, 2026, the duty, responsibilities and provisions of this Order shall transfer to Marion County and more specifically, the Administrative Judge of Marion County, or their designee, is hereby appointed to preside over evidentiary hearings and determine all motions to exceed the fee limit filed pursuant to Section 27. 5304, Florida Statutes for cases pending in Lake and Marion Counties.

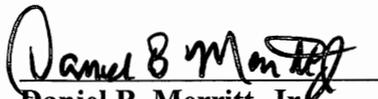
7. Thereafter, the duties defined herein as they relate Lake and Marion Counties shall rotate to the administrative judge or his or her designee each July 1st as follows:

Lake	Marion
2025	2026
2027	2028
2029	2030
2031	2032
2033	2034

8. In accordance with Section 27.5304(12)(a) any attorney filing said motion in any case in which they are appointed in Lake and Marion Counties must send a courtesy copy to the Office of the Undersigned, as Chief Judge, and the office of the current appointed Judge for scheduling and disposition.

9. This Amended Administrative Order vacates, supersedes, and replaces A-2020-34-B.

22nd **DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida on this day of July 2025.


Daniel B. Merritt, Jr
Chief Judge
Fifth Judicial Circuit