

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER L-2026-26

**IN RE: ANY CASE ASSIGNED TO THE HONORABLE CARY F. RADA
WHEREIN THE LAW FIRM OF HIGHTOWER, STRATTON,
NOVIGROD, COSTELLO, UZZI & KANTOR, P.A. IS AN ATTORNEY OF
RECORD AND/OR A NAMED PARTY**

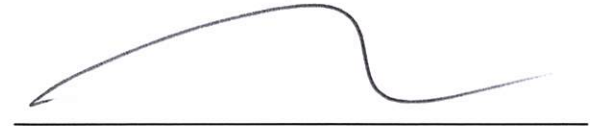
THIS CAUSE, came on to be heard before the undersigned Administrative Judge regarding the reassignment of any and all cases assigned to the Honorable Cary F. Rada wherein counsel for any party is the law firm HIGHTOWER, STRATTON, NOVIGROD, COSTELLO, UZZI & KANTOR, P.A. a/k/a/ Hightower, Stratton, Novigrod & Kantor.

It has been brought to the attention of the undersigned that there is an actual or perceived conflict of interest in the assignment of the cases referenced immediately above. In order to maintain judicial integrity, recusal of, and reassignment from, the Honorable Cary F. Rada is appropriate in any case wherein HIGHTOWER, STRATTON, NOVIGROD, COSTELLO, UZZI & KANTOR, P.A. is counsel of record or party to suit.

It is **THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** as follows:

1. With his approval and consent, the Honorable Cary F. Rada, Circuit Judge, is hereby recused from presiding in any case which may be assigned to him where any named party in any action is represented by the law firm HIGHTOWER, STRATTON, NOVIGROD, COSTELLO, UZZI & KANTOR, P.A. Likewise, any case in which HIGHTOWER, STRATTON, NOVIGROD, COSTELLO, UZZI & KANTOR, P.A. is a named party.
2. The Clerk of the Court is hereby directed to reassign such cases at random in accordance with Administrative Order L-2025-60-D, any subsequent amendments thereto, and any order that replaces Administrative Order L-2025-60-D.
3. Thereafter the Clerk of the Courts shall reassign a similar case type from the docket of the Judge who is receiving the reassigned case to the docket of the Honorable Cary F. Rada in an equal assignment.
4. The provisions of this Order shall remain in effect until further ordered by the undersigned.

DONE AND ORDRED in Chambers in Tavares, Lake County, Florida, on this 31st day of August 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JB', is written above a horizontal line.

James R. Baxley
Administrative Judge
Lake County