

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 2017-17

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND  
FOR ORANGE AND OSCEOLA  
COUNTIES, FLORIDA

**ORDER ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF CIRCUIT AND COUNTY JUDGES TO  
TEMPORARY DUTY IN THE CIRCUIT AND COUNTY COURTS  
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR 2018**

**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**, pursuant to the chief judge's constitutional and statutory responsibility for administrative supervision of the courts within the circuit and 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); and

**WHEREAS**, delegation of the Chief Justice's assignment power to the chief judges of the judicial circuits is necessary to the proper administration of our court system. As the administrative officer of all courts within a judicial circuit the chief judge is best equipped to assess the needs of each trial court and must be given flexibility to effectively utilize and allocate available judicial labor within the circuit accordingly; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(4), and acting under the Chief Justice's constitutional power to make temporary judicial assignments to ensure the speedy, efficient, and proper administration of justice, the chief judge may assign any judge to temporary service for which the judge is qualified in any court in the same circuit; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been officially made known to me that it is necessary for the prompt dispatch of the business of the Circuit and County Courts of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, respectively, that the Judges of the Circuit and County Courts of the Ninth Judicial Circuit be assigned to temporary duty in those courts; and

**WHEREAS**, the benefits of continued education and the sharing of information statewide realized through the attendance by circuit and county judges at the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges and the Florida Conference of County Court Judges, respectively, results in the great majority of circuit court judges or county court judges attending their respective conference at the same time. Consequently, during the conferences each year it is necessary to assign all circuit court judges as county court judges and all county court judges as acting circuit court judges whenever the need arises for emergency and temporary duty; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to allow judges of the entire Circuit to efficiently and effectively handle issues presented within the Circuit in a limited temporary or emergency capacity, eliminate the need to enter individualized orders weekly (or more often), and to avoid undue confusion and uncertainty for the public, litigants and others involved in the court system, this blanket Order assigns all circuit court judges as county court judges and all county court judges as acting circuit court judges whenever the need arises; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with *Physicians Healthcare Plans, Inc. v. Pfeifler*, 846 So. 2d 1129 (Fla. 2003), this Order does not divest a court of jurisdiction, it does not assign a county judge to exclusively circuit work, nor does it assign a circuit judge to exclusively county work. Further, in this time of crowded dockets and extremely limited resources in the state courts system, it is necessary to utilize judicial resources in a cost-effective manner to maximize the

efficient administration of justice. *See, e.g., State v. Brady*, 985 So. 2d 656, 665 (Fla. 2d DCA 2008) in which the appellate court relied upon a similar order to find that a circuit court judge had jurisdiction as an acting county court judge to hear a misdemeanor DUI case;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Frederick J. Lauten, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida under Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, order the following, **effective January 1, 2018**, unless otherwise provided herein, and to continue until further order of this Court and superseding any provisions in prior Administrative Orders which may be inconsistent:

1. I hereby assign and designate the following Circuit Judges of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, to-wit:

THE HONORABLE GAIL A. ADAMS  
THE HONORABLE ALAN S. APTE  
THE HONORABLE ELAINE A. BARBOUR  
THE HONORABLE ALICE L. BLACKWELL  
THE HONORABLE MARK S. BLECHMAN  
THE HONORABLE LUIS F. CALDERON  
THE HONORABLE KEITH A. CARSTEN  
THE HONORABLE A. JAMES CRANER  
THE HONORABLE DANIEL P. DAWSON  
THE HONORABLE PATRICIA A. DOHERTY  
THE HONORABLE ROBERT J. EGAN  
THE HONORABLE JENIFER M. HARRIS  
THE HONORABLE HEATHER L. HIGBEE  
THE HONORABLE JOHN E. JORDAN  
THE HONORABLE JOHN MARSHALL KEST  
THE HONORABLE SALLY D. M. KEST  
THE HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE  
THE HONORABLE FREDERICK J. LAUTEN  
THE HONORABLE BOB LEBLANC  
THE HONORABLE MARC L. LUBET  
THE HONORABLE LETICIA MARQUES  
THE HONORABLE JON B. MORGAN  
THE HONORABLE LISA T. MUNYON  
THE HONORABLE MIKE MURPHY

THE HONORABLE DONALD A. MYERS, JR.  
THE HONORABLE JULIE H. O’KANE  
THE HONORABLE RENEE A. ROCHE  
THE HONORABLE HEATHER PINDER RODRIGUEZ  
THE HONORABLE JOSÉ R. RODRIGUEZ  
THE HONORABLE MARGARET H. SCHREIBER  
THE HONORABLE TIM SHEA  
THE HONORABLE KIMBERLY M. SHEPARD  
THE HONORABLE PATRICIA L. STROWBRIDGE  
THE HONORABLE DIANA M. TENNIS  
THE HONORABLE JANET C. THORPE  
THE HONORABLE DANIEL E. TRAVER  
THE HONORABLE GREG ALLEN TYNAN  
THE HONORABLE CHRISTI L. UNDERWOOD  
THE HONORABLE KEVIN B. WEISS  
THE HONORABLE KEITH F. WHITE  
THE HONORABLE REGINALD K. WHITEHEAD  
THE HONORABLE TANYA DAVIS WILSON  
THE HONORABLE WAYNE C. WOOTEN

to proceed to the County Courts of Orange & Osceola Counties and thereupon, on the **1st day of January 1, 2018**, and thereafter through the **30th day of June, 2018**, hear, conduct, try and determine the cause or causes which shall from time to time be presented to one or another of them as temporary Judges of the said Courts, and thereafter dispose of any matters considered by them respectively. These Circuit Judges shall also consider those matters which arise during their assignment as emergency duty judge and other matters assigned to them by the Chief Judge that the County Judges of the Ninth Judicial Circuit are unable to hear or dispose of because of crowded dockets in all levels of the Court system. In this manner, when, by some good fortune, judicial time is available, crowded dockets can be alleviated.

2. I hereby assign and designate the following Judges of the County Court of Orange County, to-wit:

THE HONORABLE MARTHA ADAMS  
THE HONORABLE FAYE ALLEN

THE HONORABLE MAUREEN A. BELL  
THE HONORABLE JEANETTE D. BIGNEY  
THE HONORABLE ANDREW L. CAMERON  
THE HONORABLE TINA L. CARABALLO  
THE HONORABLE NANCY L. CLARK  
THE HONORABLE ERIC H. DUBOIS  
THE HONORABLE BRIAN F. DUCKWORTH  
THE HONORABLE JAMIE RUTLAND GROSSHANS  
THE HONORABLE EVELLEN JEWETT  
THE HONORABLE STEVE JEWETT  
THE HONORABLE DAVID P. JOHNSON  
THE HONORABLE GISELA T. LAURENT  
THE HONORABLE WILFREDO MARTINEZ  
THE HONORABLE ADAM MCGINNIS  
THE HONORABLE WAYNE J. SHOEMAKER  
THE HONORABLE ELIZABETH J. STARR

to proceed to the Circuit Courts in and for Orange and Osceola Counties and to the County Court of Osceola County and thereupon on the **1st day of January, 2018**, and thereafter through the **30th day of June, 2018**, hear, conduct, try and determine the cause or causes which shall be presented to them as temporary Judges of the said Courts, and thereafter dispose, respectively, of all matters considered by them during said dates. These County Judges shall also consider those matters which arise during their assignment as emergency duty judge and other matters assigned to them by the Chief Judge that the Circuit Judges of the Ninth Judicial Circuit are unable to hear or dispose of because of crowded dockets in all levels of the court system. In this manner, when, by some good fortune, judicial time is available, crowded dockets can be alleviated.

3. I hereby assign and designate the following Judges of the County Court of Osceola County, to-wit:

THE HONORABLE CAROL ENGEL DRAPER  
THE HONORABLE HAL C. EPPERSON, JR.  
THE HONORABLE STEFANIA JANCEWICZ  
THE HONORABLE HEATHER K. O'BRIEN

to proceed to the Circuit Courts in and for Orange and Osceola Counties and the County Court of Orange County and thereupon on the **1st day of January, 2018**, and thereafter through the **30th day of June, 2018**, hear, conduct, try and determine the cause or causes which shall be presented to them as temporary Judges of the said Courts, and thereafter dispose, respectively, of all matters considered by them during said dates. These County Judges shall also consider those matters which arise during their assignment as emergency duty judge and other matters assigned to them by the Chief Judge that the Circuit Judges of the Ninth Judicial Circuit are unable to hear or dispose of because of crowded dockets in all levels of the court system. In this manner, when, by some good fortune, judicial time is available, crowded dockets can be alleviated.

4. The said Judges of the Circuit and County Courts of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, as above named, under and by virtue of the authority hereof, each vested, individually, with all and singular the powers and prerogatives conferred by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Florida upon a Judge of the Courts to which they are hereby temporarily assigned.

**DONE AND ORDERED** at Orlando, Florida, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Frederick J. Lauten  
Chief Judge

Copies provided to:

Clerk of Courts, Orange County  
Clerk of Courts, Osceola County  
General E-Mail Distribution List  
<http://www.ninthcircuit.org>