

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2019-05

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

**ORDER GOVERNING CASES INVOLVING THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON CIVIL
ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION**

WHEREAS, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (hereinafter “the Convention”) is a mechanism for parents seeking the return of children who have been wrongfully removed or retained from the child’s country of habitual residence; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Convention, a person whose custody rights have been breached by the wrongful removal or retention of a child under the age of sixteen may petition to the appropriate court where the child is located; and

WHEREAS, once an application for return has been filed, the court is required to act expeditiously in the proceedings for the return of the child; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Florida State Courts System to better protect children from the effects of their wrongful removal through the establishment of a network of Florida judges who develop expertise in this important area of law;

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit and in accordance with Supreme Court of Florida Administrative Order No. AOSC19-19, and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, I hereby designate **THE HONORABLE HEATHER L. HIGBEE** with primary responsibility for handling Convention cases filed with the Ninth Judicial Circuit, effective immediately.

DONE AND ORDERED at Orlando, Florida, this 9th day of May, 2019.

_____/s/_____
Frederick J. Lauten
Chief Judge

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