

**IN THE COURTS FOR THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

Administrative Order No. 2010-37

IN RE: JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS
Reassignment of Judicial Resources from Escambia County to
Okaloosa County

WHEREAS, *Fla.R.Jud.Admin. 2.215(b)(3)* vests responsibility for “assignment of judges” in a circuit with the Chief Judge; and

WHEREAS, for several years judges from Okaloosa County have voiced concerns that comparative case load inequities exist among the counties in the First Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, during the Summer of 2009 current SRS statistics for the four counties within the First Judicial Circuit were obtained and analyzed in consultation with all the judges of the First Judicial Circuit in several meetings; and

WHEREAS, those consultations established that Okaloosa County had the highest current need for additional judicial resources and Escambia County had the highest current judicial capacity; and

WHEREAS, transferring a circuit court judicial position from Escambia County to Okaloosa County would result in a roughly equivalent need for additional judicial resources in each of the four counties in the circuit; and

WHEREAS, consideration was given as to whether a transfer should be ordered in early 2010 upon the retirement of Circuit Judge Kim A. Skievaski, or in 2011 upon the retirement of Circuit Judge Frank L. Bell (Group 3); and

WHEREAS, a review of multiple factors including making space available for an additional circuit judge in Okaloosa County concluded that such a transfer could be

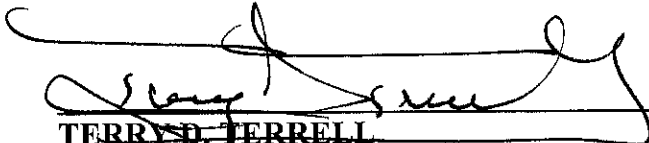
accommodated in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the decision of such transfer has been previously publicly announced and an order should be entered memorializing said transfer, it is

ORDERED that

1. Effective January 3, 2011 and upon the expiration of the current term of Circuit Judge (Group 3), that circuit judge judicial position shall be transferred from Escambia County to Okaloosa County, and the individual elected to fill that position shall be assigned to Okaloosa County effective upon taking the oath of office January 4, 2011.
2. The Administrative Judge of Okaloosa County shall establish a plan to incorporate an additional circuit judge position into the work of the courts of Okaloosa County.
3. The Administrative Judge of Escambia County shall establish a plan to reassign the cases assigned to Judge Bell up to and including the effective date of this order.

DONE AND ORDERED in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida this 4th day of August, 2010.


TERRY D. TERRELL
CHIEF JUDGE

Copies furnished to:

Honorable William F. Stone, Administrative Judge, Okaloosa County
Honorable Paul Rasmussen, Administrative Judge, Escambia County
Honorable Ernie L. Magaha, Clerk, Escambia County
Honorable Don Howard, Clerk, Okaloosa County
All Judges, First Judicial Circuit
Lisa Goodner, State Court Administrator
Robin Wright, First Circuit Trial Court Administrator
Escambia/Santa Rosa Bar Association, for publication in *The Summation*
Okaloosa/Walton Bar Association, for publication in newsletter
For post to www.FirstJudicialCircuit.org