

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2023-37

IN RE: JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS

**ORDER ON COUNTY COURT JUDGES PERFORMING
CIRCUIT COURT DUTIES WITHIN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

WHEREAS, it has been officially known to me that it is necessary for the dispatch of business for the Circuit Court in and for the First Judicial Circuit that the county judges of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton County, Florida, be temporarily assigned to duty in the circuit court to supplement and aid the circuit judges, and,

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge of the Circuit is charged with providing for the efficient utilization of judicial manpower, including the assignment of qualified county judges for temporary duty in the Circuit Court;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John L. Miller, pursuant to authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the First Judicial Circuit by Article V, Section 2.(d) of the *Constitution of Florida* and Rules of the Supreme Court of Florida promulgated thereunder, to-wit: Florida Rule of General Practice & Judicial Administration 2.205(a)(4)(c), do hereby assign and designate the following county court judges to the Circuit and County Court in all counties of the First Judicial Circuit of Florida:

Honorable Barry E. Dickson, Jr.
Honorable Jose A. Giraud
Honorable David Walker Green
Honorable C. Robert Hilliard
Honorable Kristina D. Lightel
Honorable Angela D. Mason
Honorable Scott Ritchie
Honorable Jonathan V. Schlechter
Honorable Kerra A. Smith
Honorable James C. Ward
Honorable Charles P. Young

In addition to matters within the jurisdiction of the County Court, said county judges shall hear, conduct, try, and determine all issues in all divisions of the Circuit Court of the said circuit which shall be presented to him/her as temporary judge of said Circuit Court and shall hear, conduct, try, and determine all issues in all divisions of the County Courts of all counties of said circuit, and therefore dispose of all matters considered by him/her while serving as said judge, provided that such matters be disposed of within thirty (30) days of the termination date of this Order.

ACCORDINGLY, the aforementioned judges are hereby vested with the power and prerogatives conferred by the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida judge of the court to which he/she is hereby assigned.

Specifically, the aforementioned judges are assigned circuit court responsibilities during their assignment as Duty Judge, including, but not limited to, the issuance of domestic violence restraining orders.

This Order shall be effective January 1, 2024, and shall continue in force through December 31, 2024, unless otherwise vacated or amended. This Order supersedes any prior administrative orders on this matter. The Clerk of the Circuit Court in each county of this circuit is directed to file a copy of this assignment in the official records book of his/her office.

DONE AND ORDERED, in Chambers at Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida, this 4th day of December, 2023.

/s/ John L. Miller
JOHN L. MILLER
CHIEF JUDGE

Conformed copies to:

All County Judges, First Judicial Circuit
All Circuit Judges, First Judicial Circuit
All Clerks, First Judicial Circuit
Kasey R. Watson, Trial Court Administrator
For posting: www.FirstJudicialCircuit.org