

**IN THE COURTS OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE ECAD2023-02

**IN RE: ACCESS TO THE M.C. BLANCHARD JUDICIAL BUILDING AND
THEODORE BRUNO BUILDING FOR REGIONAL COUNSEL**

ORDER

WHEREAS, the Public Defender and assistant public defenders employed in the Escambia County Office of the Public Defender (PD) in the First Judicial Circuit currently have access to the M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building and Theodore Bruno Building via authorized security photo identification (Badge Access); and

WHEREAS, prior to Badge Access being granted, the PD utilizes the Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC) and CLEAR to determine whether security issues exist regarding attorneys within the PD's office that would make granting Badge Access inappropriate; and

WHEREAS, section 27.511(10), Florida Statutes, states that "[e]ach court shall allow for the ingress and egress to its facilities for regional counsels and assistant regional counsels in the same manner as is provided to public defenders and assistant public defenders, subject to the security requirements of each courthouse[;]" and

WHEREAS, attorneys employed at the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel (ORC) do not currently have access to the M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building and Theodore Bruno Building in the same manner as is currently provided to public defenders and assistant public defenders;

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Attorneys employed at ORC and headquartered in Escambia County shall have access to the M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building and Theodore Bruno Building subject to the

terms of this Order and subject to Administrative Order 2018-13 or any successive order concerning courthouse security as a whole in the First Judicial Circuit.

2. Before any attorney employed by ORC may obtain Badge Access, ORC must determine whether security issues exist concerning the attorney through use of *both* (a) FCIC and (b) CLEAR, or an equivalent to CLEAR. After Court Administration's receipt of written confirmation from ORC that the attorney does not present any security risk, the attorney may obtain Badge Access upon submission of a request form to Court Administration and subject to the authority of the Chief Judge or his or her designee.

3. Any person seeking Badge Access must sign a statement of acknowledgment of the security measures and responsibilities associated with Badge Access. No person with Badge Access may share the badge with any other person.

4. Badge Access for attorneys employed by ORC will provide access to the M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building and Theodore Bruno Building only on days when those buildings are open for business and then only between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

5. Upon resignation or termination of any ORC attorney who has Badge Access, ORC must immediately notify Court Administration of the resignation or termination, and ORC must immediately take possession of the badge and return it to Court Administration as soon as possible.

6. If a badge is lost or stolen, ORC must immediately notify Court Administration.

7. An ORC attorney shall be subject to the same consequences that any other individual would be subject to for breaching a security measure. Any breach of a security measure may result in consequences not limited to forfeiture of Badge Access, contempt of court proceedings, and criminal prosecution.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida, on this
3rd day of July, 2023.

//s// John F. Simon, Jr.
JOHN F. SIMON, JR.
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Copies furnished to:

All Judges, First Judicial Circuit
Honorable Ginger Bowden Madden, State Attorney
Honorable Bruce Miller, Public Defender
Candice Brower, Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel
Pam Childers, Clerk of Court, Escambia County
Kasey Watson, Trial Court Administrator
For publication and distribution by the Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association
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