

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup>  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF  
FLORIDA IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: 2.005/21-1  
AMENDED

IN RE:

COUNTY COURT DIVISION  
ASSIGNMENTS/OFFICIAL  
HEADQUARTERS

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Filed and Recorded in Official Records of  
MONROE COUNTY KEVIN MADOK, CPA

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge is charged by Rule 2.215(b)(4), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, with the responsibility of assigning judges to the courts and divisions in the Circuit; and

WHEREAS, there is a desire to distribute the workload of the County Court on an equitable and geographical basis;

WHEREAS, due to the retirement of County Judge Ruth Becker on July 30, 2021, cases currently assigned to her through July 30, 2021, need to be reassigned and equally distributed amongst the circuit and county judges in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit;

It is therefore, ORDERED that:

1. The County Court caseload shall be apportioned on the basis of the geographic division in which the case is filed and the date of the filing. Apportionment shall be as follows:

**A. LOWER KEYS DIVISION**

All county criminal cases filed in the Lower Keys Division shall be divided alphabetically by the last name of the defendant. Defendants with the last name starting with the letters A through L shall be assigned to Judge Mark Wilson. Defendants with the last name starting with the letters M through Z shall be assigned to Judge Peary S. Fowler. In the event that there are co-defendants in a case, the entire case with all defendants shall be assigned to the judge having jurisdiction over the case with the lowest case number. Cases that are reopened due to probation violation charges shall be assigned according to the alphabetical division described above.

All new small claims cases shall be assigned to Judge Peary S. Fowler.

All new and pending county civil cases, including Landlord/Tenant actions, shall be assigned to Judge Peary S. Fowler.

All pending Landlord/Tenant actions assigned to Judge Mark Wilson on July 30, 2021, shall be reassigned to Judge Peary Fowler.

All new and pending municipal and county ordinance violations requiring a hearing, as well as civil traffic cases requiring a hearing in front of a judge, shall be assigned to Judge Peary S. Fowler.

**B. MIDDLE KEYS DIVISION**

All county criminal cases in the Middle Keys Division cases, including criminal traffic, and all civil traffic violations, shall be assigned to Judge Mark Wilson.

All pending criminal cases, including criminal traffic, and all civil traffic cases currently assigned to Judge Ruth Becker on July 30, 2021, shall be reassigned to Judge Mark Wilson.

All new small claims, county civil and ordinance violation cases in the Middle Keys Division shall be assigned to Judge Sharon Hamilton.

All pending small claims, county civil and ordinance violation cases assigned to Judge Ruth Becker on July 30, 2021, shall be reassigned to Judge Sharon Hamilton.

**C. UPPER KEYS DIVISION**

All Upper Keys cases, including ordinance violations and civil traffic cases requiring a hearing shall be assigned to Judge Sharon Hamilton.

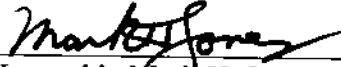
2. For purposes of travel reimbursement authorized and allowable under Section 112.061, Florida Statutes, the headquarters of each judge shall be as follows:
  - A. Peary S. Fowler, Key West
  - B. Mark Wilson, Key West
  - C. Sharon Hamilton, Plantation Key

Nothing herein is intended to preclude the assignment of a county judge to a secondary office location or division, nor assignment to the circuit court when qualified.

3. All new criminal cases shall be scheduled for arraignment on the basis of a misdemeanor arraignment calendar that will be published by the Court Administrator's Office. This calendar shall specify the date, time, location, and presiding judge. If the assigned presiding judge is unable to preside over a specific arraignment docket, a substitute judge may be assigned to preside over that docket by the Chief Judge. Any case continued at arraignment shall be continued to the next arraignment docket of the presiding judge.
4. Nothing contained in this Order shall be deemed to vest venue or jurisdiction rights for any litigant to any particular judge or court, but instead is only for the equitable distribution of cases between judges.

5. This Order is effective August 1, 2020. However, it shall not operate contrary to any incidental reassignment of cases by the Chief Judge. Administrative Order 2.005/19-1 is amended in its entirety and rescinded as of August 1, 2021.

DONE AND ORDERED at Key West, Monroe County, Florida, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

  
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Honorable Mark H. Jones  
Chief Judge