

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: 2.005/21-2  
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;

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

WHEREAS, due to the appointment of County Judge James Morgan on November 1, 2021, cases currently assigned to county judges in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit need to be reassigned.

It is therefore, ORDERED that:

1. The County Court caseload shall be apportioned based on 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. If 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 small claims cases shall be assigned to Judge Peary S. Fowler.

All county civil cases shall be assigned to Judge Peary S. Fowler, except for Landlord/Tenant actions. All new Landlord/Tenant actions shall be divided equally between Judge Peary S. Fowler and Judge Mark Wilson.

All 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 Middle Keys Division cases, including ordinance violations and civil traffic cases requiring a hearing, shall be assigned to Judge James Morgan.

All pending Middle Keys Division cases currently assigned to Judge Mark Wilson and Judge Sharon Hamilton shall be reassigned to Judge James Morgan on November 1, 2021.

**C. UPPER KEYS DIVISION**

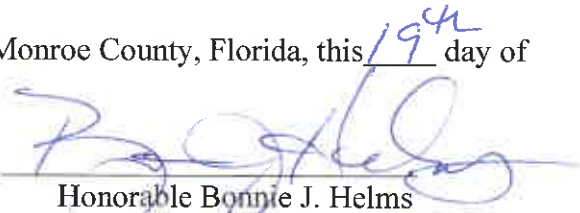
All Upper Keys cases, including ordinance violations and civil traffic cases requiring a hearing shall be assigned to Judge Sharon Hamilton.

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. James Morgan, Marathon
  - B. Peary S. Fowler, Key West
  - C. Mark Wilson, Key West
  - D. 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 according to 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 November 1, 2021. However, it shall not operate contrary to any incidental reassignment of cases by the Chief Judge. Administrative Order 2.005/21-1 is amended in its entirety and rescinded as of November 1, 2021.

DONE AND ORDERED at Key West, Monroe County, Florida, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021.

  
Honorable Bonnie J. Helms  
Chief Judge