

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF FLORIDA

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.:**  
**26-01 AMENDED**  
**SUPERSEDES 26-01**

**IN RE: JUDGES - APPOINTMENT OF CIRCUIT JUDGES TO HANDLE COUNTY COURT  
CASES IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS**

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Due to the fact that it is necessary, from time to time, for circuit judges to hear and determine matters of the county court when a judge of that court is not available, and in order to maximize the efficient administration of justice and judicial labor in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, it is thereupon, ORDERED:

- I. That qualified circuit judges in Brevard and Seminole Counties are authorized and directed to supplement and aid the county judges of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit by sitting as county judges in the following matters:
  - A. Initial and second appearances in criminal justice cases;
  - B. Misdemeanor crimes;
  - C. All tasks related to violation of probation for misdemeanor crimes; and
  - D. County court civil infraction hearings.
  
- II. For purposes of conducting the aforementioned proceedings, I determine the following circuit judges to be appropriately qualified:

The Honorable Tesha Ballou  
The Honorable Scott Blaue  
The Honorable Samuel Bookhardt III  
The Honorable Melanie Chase  
The Honorable Charles G. Crawford  
The Honorable Jigisa Dookhoo  
The Honorable John D. Galluzzo  
The Honorable Donna M. Goerner  
The Honorable Steve Henderson  
The Honorable Mark Edward Herr  
The Honorable Curt Jacobus  
The Honorable Kelly J. McKibben  
The Honorable Laura Moody  
The Honorable Michelle L. Naberhaus  
The Honorable William S. Orth  
The Honorable George T. Paulk  
The Honorable Jessica Recksiedler  
The Honorable Michael J. Rudisill  
The Honorable Robert Segal

The Honorable Christina Serrano  
The Honorable Kristen Smith-Rodriguez  
The Honorable Melissa D. Souto  
The Honorable Kathryn M. Speicher  
The Honorable Christopher Sprysenski  
The Honorable Susan Stacy  
The Honorable Michelle Studstill

- III. When the circuit judges listed above conduct any of the county court matters listed in section I of this Order, the services of the circuit judge are to be:
- A. Temporary;
  - B. Directed only to the specific classes of cases listed in section I of this Order;
  - C. Limited to assisting and supplementing the county court judges; and
  - D. Restricted to only a fraction of the pending cases.
- IV. No circuit judge shall be assigned to perform solely county court work absent a special order authorizing and directing said assignment (not to exceed sixty days in duration). *Holsman v. Cohen*, 667 So. 2d 769 (Fla. 1996); *Crusoe v. Rowls*, 472 So. 2d 1163, 1165 n.2 (Fla. 1985).
- V. No circuit judge shall be given successive and repetitive assignments to hear all county court matters in any special district within the circuit, absent a special order of assignment (not to exceed sixty days in duration). *Payret v. Adams*, 500 So. 2d 136, 138 (Fla. 1986).
- VI. When any of the circuit judges listed above conduct any of the county court matters as described in section I of this Order, that circuit judge shall have all powers and authority of a county judge in every respect. This authority includes, but is not limited to, the issuing of orders in the county court so assigned, as deemed necessary and appropriate.
- VII. This Order shall be in effect on July 1, 2026, and for a period of six months from the date of its rendition.

DONE and ORDERED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026.

  
MELANIE CHASE  
CHIEF JUDGE

Distribution:

All Circuit and County Judges (Brevard and Seminole Counties)  
Court Administration (Brevard and Seminole Counties)  
Clerk of Court (Brevard and Seminole Counties)  
State Attorney (Brevard and Seminole Counties)  
Public Defender (Brevard and Seminole Counties)  
Sheriff (Brevard and Seminole Counties)  
Bar Association (Brevard and Seminole Counties)  
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