

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: 2.005/17-1  
AMENDED

IN RE:

COUNTY COURT DIVISION  
ASSIGNMENTS/OFFICIAL  
HEADQUARTERS

Doc# 2127304 06/15/2017 11:01AM  
Filed & Recorded in Official Records of  
MONROE COUNTY KEVIN MADOK

Doc# 2127304  
Bk# 2859 Pg# 1748

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge is charged by Rule 2.050(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;

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 E shall be assigned to Judge Ruth Becker. Defendants with the last name starting with the letters F 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.

Pending county court criminal cases currently assigned to Judge Wayne Miller with defendant's last name starting with A through E shall be reassigned to Judge Ruth Becker. Pending cases with defendant's last name starting with F through K shall be assigned by separate Administrative Order.

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

All of the new county civil cases shall be assigned to Judge Peary S. Fowler, with the exception of Landlord/Tenant actions. All pending and new Landlord/Tenant actions shall be divided equally between Judge Peary S. Fowler and Judge Ruth Becker. Pending Landlord/Tenant actions currently assigned to Judge Wayne Miller shall be reassigned to Judge Ruth Becker.

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.

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**B. MIDDLE KEYS DIVISION**

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

**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. Ruth Becker, Marathon
  - B. Peary S. Fowler, Key West
  - C. Sharon Hamilton, Plantation Key
  - D. Wayne Miller, Key West

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 September 1, 2017. However, it shall not operate contrary to any incidental reassignment of cases by the Chief Judge.

DONE AND ORDERED at Key West, Monroe County, Florida, this 13 day of June, 2017.

  
Honorable Mark H. Jones  
Chief Judge