IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

FIFTH AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 1 ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 14 of the Supreme Court of Arkansas delivered on April 6, 2001, the following constitutes the administrative plan of the Circuit Courts of the Thirteenth Judicial District for the implementation of Amendment 80 to the Arkansas Constitution:

Act 951 of 2001 identifies and designates the separate divisions of circuit court as follows:

OLD DESIGNATION	JUDGE	NEW DESIGNATION
Chancery 1st Division	Hamilton H. Singleton	Circuit Court 1st Division
Chancery 2nd Division	Michael R. Landers	Circuit Court 2nd Division
Circuit/Chancery Juv/3rd Div.	Edwin A. Keaton	Circuit Court 3rd Division
Circuit/Chancery 4th Div.	Carol Crafton Anthony	Circuit Court 4th Division
Circuit/Chancery 5th Div.	Larry W. Chandler	Circuit Court 5th Division
Circuit 2nd Division	David F. Guthrie	Circuit Court 6th Division

The Thirteenth Judicial District is comprised of six counties: Calhoun, Cleveland, Columbia, Dallas, Ouachita, and Union. The size caseload in the six counties is disparate as are the resources. Dividing all cases in all six counties equally would place an extreme burden on support personnel of the courts. Therefore, the following division of cases is established:

	CRIMINAL	JUVENILE	CIVIL	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	PROBATE	*DRUG COURT*
CALHOUN	2nd Div.	4th Div.	3rd Div. ¼ (40) 6th Div. ¾	1st Div. ½ (20) 4th Div. ½	4th Div.	*N/A*
CLEVELAND	5th Div.	5th Div.	3rd Div. ¼ (40) 6th Div. ¾	1st Div. ⅔ (30) 2nd Div. 1/6 4th Div. 1/6	1st Div.	*N/A*
COLUMBIA	5th Div.	5th Div.	4th Div. ¼ (40) 6th Div. ¾	1st Div. ¼ (40) 2nd Div. ¼ 3rd Div. ¼ 5th Div. ¼	5th Div.	*Juvenile - 5th Div.* *Adult - 5th Div.*
DALLAS	4th Div.	5th Div.	3rd Div. ¼ (40) 6th Div. ¾	1st Div. ¼ (40) 2nd Div. ¾	3rd Div.	*N/A*
OUACHITA	3rd Div. ½ (30) 4th Div. ½	3rd Div. ½ 5th Div. ½	2nd Div. ¼ (40) 6th Div. ¾	1st Div. ⅓ (30) 2nd Div. ⅓ 3rd Div. ⅓	1st Div.	*Adult - 3rd Div.*
UNION	1st Div. ½ (20) 4th Div. ½	3rd Div. ⅓ 5th Div. ⅔	4th Div. ¼ (40) 6th Div. ¾	2nd Div. ½ (40) 3rd Div. ¼ 6th Div. ¼	2nd Div. ½ (20) 6th Div. ½	*Adult – 4th Div.*

As the diagram above reflects, there are five subject matter jurisdictions maintained by a circuit court (i.e., criminal, juvenile, civil, domestic relations and probate). In addition, three counties have implemented drug courts. Some of the subject matter jurisdictions have been divided between two or more judges. In each subject matter jurisdiction where there are two or more judges in that subject matter jurisdiction in that particular county, new filings will be assigned division numbers on a random basis by the drawing of a chip bearing the number of the division drawn. For instance, in the civil division of Calhoun County, ¼ of the cases will be heard by the judge of the third division, while ¾ of the cases will be heard by the judge of the sixth division of circuit court. This would call for a container having forty chips; ten of these chips would bear the number 3 while the remaining thirty would bear the number 6. The Circuit Clerk of Calhoun County, upon receiving a new filing in civil division, would draw from the container and assign that case to the division drawn. All forty chips must be

exhausted before the container may be replenished with another forty chips in this same manner. The circuit clerk shall, upon assigning a case following the drawing, place that chip in another container. The chips in the *used container* will not be re-circulated until all the chips of the original filing container have been exhausted. The clerk shall assign division numbers by computerized random assignment of cases when such capacity is available.

The chart hereinabove provides for the number of chips to be assigned to each subject matter jurisdiction in each county where there are two or more judges responsible for cases of that particular docket.

The circuit clerks and county clerks (probate division) shall receive instruction from time to time from the judges of the Thirteenth Judicial District to assist them in assigning cases in such a manner that the assignment will be totally random.

Cases filed by the daughter of Judge Singleton, Christina S. Carr, who is a practicing attorney and a deputy prosecuting attorney in the Thirteenth Judicial District, will not be placed in 1st Division. In the event Judge Singleton's division is drawn in a new filing by his daughter, the clerks are instructed to draw another chip from the new filing container so that case may be assigned to another division. The clerk will continue drawing chips from the new filing container until a division other than Division 1 is selected. Thereafter, those chips drawn by the clerk assigning the case to Judge Singleton's division will be returned to the new filing container.

Recognizing that litigants in this district need prompt hearings and resolutions of matters in domestic relations cases, if the assigned judge cannot provide a temporary hearing within 30 days, the case shall be transferred to another division.

Cases in which conflicts arise after filing will be transferred by the designated judge to another division.

Although this plan contemplates the assignment of probate cases as set forth above, given the nature of certain probate matters, (i.e. emergency petitions for mental, drug or alcohol commitments) it is the intention of the judges to hear probate cases as needed regardless of division.

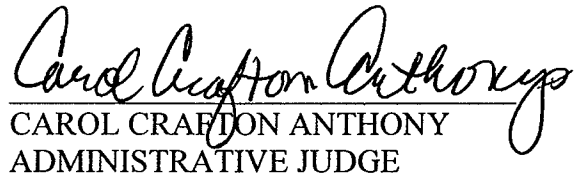
This plan will result in a substantially equal apportionment of work. The judges will monitor the assignment of cases and periodically review and confer regarding the allocation of cases and any attendant problems.

This plan results in each judge working in at least three (3) of the five (5) dockets and crossing the old line between law and equity.

The judges have unanimously agreed upon the division set forth above and further agree that this plan shall not be altered except by unanimous agreement.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Order be filed and recorded by the clerks of each county in the Thirteenth Judicial District, to be effective January 2, 2010. This Order shall remain in effect until amended or replaced by a subsequent Order.

Dated this 29th day of July, 2009.



CAROL CRAFTON ANTHONY
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT