

IN THE DISTRICT COURTS OF BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, Arkansas Supreme Court Administrative Order Number 18, Section 9. (a) provides that certain state district courts shall prepare an administrative plan, when the court operates a speciality court program or when multiple judges preside in the district or the court has multiple venues in the district; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Code allows for the division of cases among the four District Judges in Benton County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the District Judges of Benton County, Arkansas, have taken into account geographical considerations, district boundaries, statistical data from the Administrative Office of the Courts and the various Benton County District Courts, the projected case load of each Judge, and the experience and abilities of the individual Judges to promote prompt and efficient resolution of cases; and

WHEREAS, the following Judges have been duly elected and qualified to the designated Divisions of Circuit Court in Benton County:

Paul Bridges

District One – Rogers

Ray Bunch

District Two – Bentonville

Stephen S. Thomas

District Three - Siloam Springs

Jeff R. Conner

District Four – Benton County West

IT IS THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED AND AGREED by the
Benton County District Judges, as follows:

I.

DIVISIONS AND VENUE

The existence of Divisions shall not be construed to limit or preclude Judges from hearing other cases that may come before them. At times when one or more of the Judges may be absent or unavailable another Judge may be called upon to act upon matters assigned to another District Court. However, cases that originate within the boundaries of a particular Benton County District Court, shall at all times be heard in that District Court as provided by the venue provisions of said Code.

II.

ASSIGNMENT OF CASES

The Benton County District Courts shall be assigned responsibilities as follows:

1. District 1 – Rogers: All traffic and criminal cases originating by the City of Rogers; and all traffic and criminal cases originating by the County of Benton within the boundaries of said District 1.

2. District 2 – Bentonville: All traffic and criminal cases originating by the City of Bentonville; all civil and small claims cases within the boundaries of District 2; all traffic and criminal cases originating by the County of Benton within the boundaries of

said District 2; all traffic and criminal cases originating by the City of Pea Ridge; all traffic and criminal cases originating by the City of Cave Springs.

3. District 3 – Siloam Springs: All traffic and criminal cases originating by the City of Siloam Springs; all civil and small claims cases within the boundaries of District 3; all civil and small claims cases within the boundaries of District 1; all civil and small claims cases within the boundaries of District 4; all traffic and criminal cases originating by the County of Benton within the boundaries of said District 3; all traffic and criminal cases originating by the City of Bethel Heights.

4. District 4 – Benton County West: All traffic and criminal cases originating by the City of Gentry; all traffic and criminal cases originating by the City of Decatur; all traffic and criminal cases originating by the County of Benton within the boundaries of said District 4; all traffic and criminal cases originating by the City of Centerton; all traffic and criminal cases originating by the City of Gravette; all traffic and criminal cases originating by the city of Sulphur Springs; all traffic and criminal cases originating by the City of Lowell; all traffic and criminal cases originating by the City of Little Flock.

5. Additionally, the four Benton County District Judges consent to the reference of certain duties by the Nineteenth Judicial District – West Administrative Court Judge as provided for in Administrative Order of the Supreme Court, Number 18. The four Benton County District Judges shall share equally in the following duties:

A) Issue a search warrant pursuant to Rule 13.1:

- B) Issue an arrest warrant pursuant to Rule 7.1 or Ark. Code Ann. Section 16-81-104, or issue a summons pursuant to Rule 6.1;
- C) Make a reasonable cause determination pursuant to Rule 4.1 (e)
- D) Conduct a first appearance hearing pursuant to Rule 8.1, at which the judge may appoint counsel pursuant to Rule 8.2; inform a defendant pursuant to Rule 8.3; conduct a pretrial release inquiry pursuant to Rules 8.4 and 8.5; or release a defendant from custody pursuant to Rules 9.1, 9.2, and 9.3;
- E) Conduct extradition proceedings pursuant to A.C.A. 16-94-101 et seq.

6. The Benton County District Judges shall rely on the County of Benton to provide necessary equipment and supplies, and either: video or audio link hook-up; or transportation of prisoners for said Rule 8.1 hearing. The individual Benton County District Judges shall have discretion whether to conduct such hearings at their various locales; or at the Benton County Detention Facility.

7. This Administrative Plan shall remain in effect, unless modified by the mutual agreement of Benton County District Court Judges.

IT IS SO ORDERED AND AGREED THIS 8 day of June, 2013.

Paul Budge

Paul Bridges, District 1 - Rogers

Ray Bunch

Ray Bunch, District 2 - Bentonville

Stephen S. Thomas

Stephen S. Thomas, District 3 - Siloam Springs

Jeff R. Conner
Jeff R. Conner, District 4 - Benton County West