IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS OF THE
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF ARKANSAS
BOONE, BAXTER, MARION AND NEWTON COUNTIES
ALL DIVISIONS

ORDER

In order to implement the new Administrative Plan which was approved by the Arkansas Supreme Court to become effective January 1, 2016, the following method of new case assignment shall be used by the Clerks of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit as follows:

CIVIL DIVISION: All new Civil Division case filings are to be assigned as follows:

.33 to Division 1, Judge Shawn Womack

.33 to Division 3, Judge John Putman

.33 to Division 4, Judge Gordon Webb

Contexte has been programed by ACAP to adhere to these percentages.

The Judges have adopted the rubric that justice is best served with a commitment to "one case, one judge". Therefore, when a case is re-opened, the Clerk will manually assign the Judge that heard the case upon it's original filing.

CRIMINAL DIVISION. In order to keep the assignment approximately in compliance with the Administrative Plan for new case filings in the Criminal Division as follows:

.50 to Division 3, Judge John Putman

.50 to Division 4, Judge Gordon Webb

All new filings with "odd numbers" shall be filed in Division 3. All new filings with "even numbers" shall be filed in Division 4. Upon a new filing, if Contexte assigns an odd numbered case to Division 4, the Clerk will reassign the new case to Division 3. Upon a new filing, if Contexte assigns an even numbered case to Division 3, the Clerk will reassign the new case to Division 4.

The reopening of a criminal case by Probation revocation, (or other re-opening document), the Clerk will reopen the case to the Division that signed the Sentencing Order (or latest closing document). A reopened case where the Sentencing Order (or other closing document) was signed by Judge Putman, the re-opened case will be assigned to Division 3. A re-opened criminal case where the Sentencing Order (or other closing document) was signed by Judge Webb, the re-opened case will be assigned to Division 4.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION. In order to keep the assignment approximately in compliance with the Administrative Plan for new case filings in the Domestic Relations Divisions as follows:

.50 to Division 1, Judge Shawn Womack

.25 to Division 3, Judge John Putman

.25 to Division 4, Judge Gordon Webb

All cases initiated by the Office of Child Support Enforcement shall be assigned to Division 1, Judge Shawn Womack.

When the Office of Child Support Enforcement intervenes in a domestic relations case, the Clerk will reopen the case in Division 1, Judge Shawn Womack.

The Judges have adopted the rubric that justice is best served with a commitment to "one case, one judge". Therefore, when a case is re-opened, the Clerk will manually assign the Judge that heard the case upon it's original filing.

JUVENILE DIVISIONS. All Juvenile case filings are to be assigned to Division 2, Judge Deanna Layton.

PROBATE DIVISIONS. All Probate Division case filings are to be assigned to Division 2, Judge Deanna Layton.

IMPLEMENTATION. Recognizing that litigants in this district deserve prompt hearings and resolutions of emergency petitions and certain critical domestic relations causes, the duly assigned Judge shall provide a temporary hearing within thirty (30) days or the case shall be transferred to another division for said resolution. This policy does not in any way interfere with a Court's determination of whether an emergency exists or whether the matter may be resolved in some other manner than by hearing.

If at any time this process leads to a substantial variance from the proportion which is supposed to be assigned under the plan, the Judges or the Administrative Judge may transfer or assign cases to bring the number into approximate compliance with the proportions required by the plan.

RECUSAL. When a Judge disqualifies themselves, the case shall pass to the Judge of the next high numbered division in this Circuit, (when the Judge of Division

Four recuses, the case passed to the Judge of Division One,) except that if there are other Judges who ordinarily do the type of case involved, the Judge of the next higher numbered division who ordinarily does such cases shall be asked to take the case first. If, after all Judges of the Circuit have been asked, all have disqualified, then a request for an assignment shall be made according to the rules adopted by the Supreme Court applicable in such matters. If the case is assigned a Judge by the Supreme Court, the scheduling of that case will be handled by the originally assigned Division.

Cases in a subject-matter division may be exclusively assigned to particular Judges, but such assignment shall not preclude Judges from hearing cases of any other subject matter division.

REFERALS PURSUANT TO ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS NUMBER 4 AND 18. The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit serving four (4) counties is also the location of two (2) District Courts that in order to best utilize those Courts as permitted, the six (6) Judges do hereby adopt the following, to-wit:

Pursuant to Order 18, Administration of District Courts, Section 6(b)(3) - (b)(5) provision is made for the referral of specific matters otherwise pending in the Circuit Courts to the State District Court. The Judges herein petition the Arkansas Supreme Court to allow by Administrative Plan the referral of the following matters from the Circuit Court to the State District Court:

1. Consent jurisdiction: Matters filed in the civil, domestic relations or probate division of Circuit court upon the consent authorized and directed by Order 18,

Section 6(b)(1) and Section (d); and

2. Protective Orders. Arkansas Code Ann. 9-15-201-217; and,

3 Forcible Entry and Detainers and Unlawful Detainer. Arkansas Code Ann. §18-60-301-312; and

4. Other matters. Matter of an emergency or uncontested nature pending in civil, domestic relations or probate division of Circuit Court, including Ex-Parte emergency involuntary commitments, decedent's estate administration, uncontested divorces and defaults under the guidelines and procedures set out in the 14th Judicial Circuit Administrative Plan; and,

5. Criminal matters. Pursuant to Order 18, Section, (b)(5).

In each case of referral, the matters referred shall be subject to the superintending control of the Administrative Judge of the 14th Judicial Circuit.

FURTHER, pursuant to Administrative Order 4 and the Administrative Office of the Courts Provisional Guidelines for digital audio records in State District Courts both the State District Courts of the Judicial Circuit have and will utilize the equipment, software and operational abilities necessary to comply with the regulations and expectations of Order 4.

FURTHER, for all referred matters pursuant to Administrative Order 18, Section 6 (b), the jurisdiction of the two State District Courts shall be the same as the jurisdiction of the referring Circuit Courts.

SPECIALITY COURTS - DRUG COURT. The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit has two Drug court programs presided over by one Circuit Judge. One Drug Court is

located in Harrison, Arkansas and is designed to serve both Boone and Newton County, Arkansas. The second Drug Court is located in Mountain Home, Arkansas and is designed to serve both Baxter and Marion County, Arkansas. The Circuit's Drug Courts are post-adjudication courts established in 2004 and 2005 under Act 1266 of 2003 (A.C.A. § 16-99-301 *et seq.*) In addition to the Judge, the staff for each court consists of a probation officer/coordinator, an A.C.C. Counselor, an A.C.C Administrative Assistant, and a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Consulting staff includes law enforcement personnel, public defenders, and other service agencies as needed.

The Drug Court dockets consist of up to 50 participants who undergo intensive supervision on probation designed to assist the individuals in addressing issues of addiction to controlled substances, prescription drugs and/or alcohol. The program lasts a minimum of twenty-six (26) months with some participants having spent over five (5) years in the program prior to successfully completing all the requirements before graduation. In addition to meeting all the terms and conditions of probation, the participants must comply with the specific obligations of the Court's Drug Court Handbook. The Court meets in session two times each month, in each location, proceeded by a staff conference, where each participant's progress is discussed.

We, the undersigned four (4) Circuit Judges of the 14th Judicial Circuit and the two State District Judges, Boone County and Baxter County, Arkansas do hereby petition the Arkansas Supreme Court to modify the current Administrative Plan as stated herein before and commit that all of the said Judges will comply with guidelines and procedures set out in the current Administrative Plan of the 14th Judicial Circuit.

WHEREFORE, we sign herein to specifically agree to the proposed and foregoing Administrative Plan for the 14th Judicial Circuit, and respectfully petition the Supreme Court of Arkansas to approve same.

IT IS SO CONSIDERED, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THIS 22nd day of June, 2015.

SHAWN WOMACK, CIRCUIT JUDGE, DIVISION 1

DEANNA LAYTON, CIRCUIT JUDGE, DIVISION 2

JOHN PUTMAN, CIRCUIT JUDGE, DIVISION 3

GORDON WEBB, CIRCUIT JUDGE, DIVISION 4

VAN GEARHART, DISTRICT JUDGE, BAXTER COUNTY

FRED KIRKPATRICK, DISTRICT JUDGE, BOONE COUNTY

In addition thereto, and pursuant to issues of Special Courts, the District Courts within the 14th Judicial Circuit, submit the following statements to the Arkansas Supreme Court as in compliance with the concerns and directions of the Court. See attached hereto.