

FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ARKANSAS
ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018

INTRODUCTION

A majority of the Circuit Judges presiding in the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Arkansas has, in accordance with the provisions of Administrative Order Number 14 of the Supreme Court of Arkansas, adopted an Administrative Plan for the Circuit.

The Fourth Judicial Circuit of Arkansas consists of Madison and Washington Counties. At present, the circuit has seven divisions with the following judges serving in each division:

- Division 1 - Doug Martin
- Division 2 - John Threet
- Division 3 - Stacey Zimmerman
- Division 4 - Cristi Beaumont
- Division 5 - Beth Storey Bryan
- Division 6 - Mark Lindsay
- Division 7 - Joanna Taylor

GOAL OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the Administrative Plan is to facilitate the best use of available judicial and support resources within the circuit in order that cases will be resolved in an efficient and prompt manner. The Administrative Plan represents a process that apportions the business of the circuit courts among each of the judges on an equal basis as possible and for random distribution of cases to judges who hear the type of case set forth in the plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The Administrative Plan is adopted by the undersigned judges and shall take effect January 1, 2018, or upon approval by the Supreme Court of Arkansas, and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2019, or until such time as the Supreme Court of Arkansas approves a subsequent plan.

CASE ASSIGNMENTS AND CASELOAD ESTIMATES

Cases filed in the Juvenile Division of the Circuit Court shall be exclusively assigned to Division 3. The Washington County juvenile facilities including a courtroom, detention center, and administrative offices are located some 2.7 miles from the other courtroom facilities in Washington County, and a single courtroom shared by all seven divisions in Madison County give rise to the necessity of assigning all juvenile cases, including juvenile drug court cases to one division.

Drug Court and Veteran's Court cases shall be assigned to Division 4. All other cases shall be randomly assigned to the appropriate division by the Circuit Clerks office of the respective counties using a computer program or by the blind drawing of chips.

All seven circuit judges shall hear felony 8.1 hearings and felony arraignments at the Washington County Jail, once a week on a rotating basis. Washington County District judges shall hear felony 8.1 hearings and felony arraignments, twice a week, in addition to misdemeanor first appearances and arraignments.

Caseload estimates are based upon the filings from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, in each division:

Division 1 - 1,490
Division 2 - 1,417
Division 3 - 2,498
Division 4 - 1,532
Division 5 - 1,585
Division 6 - 2,696
Division 7 - 1,653

Division 1 - Doug Martin

50% Civil
25% Probate
33 1/3% Domestic Abuse

Division 2 - John Threet

25% Civil
20% Domestic Relations (excluding Domestic Abuse)
25% Probate
33 1/3% Domestic Abuse

Division 3 - Stacey Zimmerman

100% Juvenile and
Detention Hearings for all juveniles, whether charged as a
delinquent or in the criminal division

Division 4 - Cristi Beaumont

40% Domestic Relations (excluding Domestic Abuse)
Drug Court and Veteran's Court

Division 5 - Beth Storey Bryan

25% Civil
20% Domestic Relations (excluding Domestic Abuse)
25% Probate
33 1/3% Domestic Abuse

Division 6 - Mark Lindsay

75% Washington County Criminal Cases
100 % Madison County Criminal Cases
Domestic Relations filed January 1, 2015 to April 15, 2016
Open Probate cases assigned prior to January 1, 2013

Division 7 - Joanna Taylor

25% Washington County Criminal Cases
20% Domestic Relations (excluding Domestic Abuse)
25% Probate
Re-Opened Division 6 Domestic Relations cases closed as of
January 1, 2015.
All criminal division cases in which a juvenile is charged

RECUSAL POLICY

The recusal policy for the Circuit Courts of the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Arkansas shall be as follows:

Should a judge be disqualified to hear any assigned case, that judge shall promptly enter an order of recusal and provide a copy of said order to the Administrative Judge and the circuit clerk. The case shall then be assigned to the next division sequentially following the last division to which a recusal has been assigned. (For example, at such time as a recusal occurs, if Division 5 has been assigned the most recent case in which a recusal had occurred, then in such event Division 6 shall be assigned the new recusal, and subsequent recusal assignments shall continue in sequence.)

Should all judges recuse in a case, the Administrative Judge shall contact the Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court pursuant to Administrative Order Number 16 of the Arkansas Supreme Court and request the assignment of a judge to hear the case.

SPECIALTY DOCKETS OR PROGRAMS

Drug Court

The Washington/Madison County Drug Court program has been in operation since 1999. Court sessions are conducted in Washington County. The program utilizes a pre-adjudication and post-adjudication process and is open to defendants with a felony charge, non-violent offenders. The program is conducted in conformance with state drug court statutes and complies with applicable laws involving the assessment of fines, fees, court costs, and probation fees. The program receives staff funding from the Public Defenders Commission, Department of Community Corrections, the Washington County Quorum Court, the State of Arkansas, and collection of court fees.

The members of the drug court program team include the Judge, Prosecuting Attorney, Public Defender, Treatment Provider, Probation Officers, DCC Administrative Staff, Law Enforcement, and Coordinator. They have been consulted for purposes of scheduling, to ensure that the necessary resources are available and to avoid conflicts with other court programs and responsibilities in which team members may be required to participate.

FOR NEW DRUG COURT PROGRAMS AND/OR SPECIALTY PROGRAMS OTHER THAN DRUG COURTS:

Veterans Drug Treatment Court

1. The Veterans Drug Treatment Court is an accountability-based program designed to address addiction and the criminal behavior associated with it. Participants who choose to take part in VDTC are willing to attend treatment meetings and a monthly court session in exchange to have their charges reduced or even dismissed from their records when they graduate.

VDTC is held in the courtroom of the Fourth Division of Washington County Circuit Court. In order to be accepted into the program, the applicant must be charged with a felony. The applicant's attorney submits the request for admission to the Prosecuting Attorney. If the presiding Judge and Prosecuting Attorney approve, the case is transferred to the Fourth Division.

The minimum amount of time it takes to finish VDTC is **15** months. Participants must move through the following phases:

1. Phase I: Intensive Outpatient Treatment
2. Phase II: Outpatient Treatment
3. Phase III: Recovery Support

Graduation Requirements:

4. Have paid all financial obligations, including court-ordered and probation fines and fees and treatment program balance owed.
5. Have been actively involved in the program for a minimum of twelve months.
6. Verify abstinence (by urinalysis drug screens) during the last 120 days in the program.
7. Complete all treatment plan assignments/other assignments.
8. Complete application and get approval by Treatment Team for graduation.

2. The statutory authority for Veterans Drug Treatment Court is A.C.A. Section 16-98-201 and A.C.A. Section 16-98-301 - 16-98-307.

3. The Veterans Treatment Court program conforms to all applicable sentencing laws, including fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessments.

4. The Veteran's Treatment Court uses the same Court resources as the existing drug court program. The prosecuting attorney, public defender, court reporter, drug court coordinator, and law clerk employed for the existing drug court program perform their same duties for the veterans' program. The judge currently presiding over the drug court program also presides over the veterans' program. Treatment/counseling services are provided by the Veterans' Administration.


5. The program receives funding from the Public Defenders Commission, Department of Community Corrections, the Washington County Quorum Court, the State of Arkansas, the Federal government, and the collection of court fees. Some grant funds are also available. The Veterans' Administration provides its resources at no cost to Washington or Madison Counties.

LOCAL DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATIVE PLANS

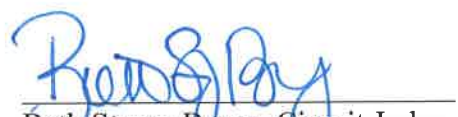
In accordance with the provisions of Administrative Orders Numbers 14 and 18, the Springdale, West Fork and Prairie Grove Local District Courts, each having multiple venues in the district, have submitted Administrative Plans which are appended to the Circuit Court Administrative Plan and designated Appendix No. 1, 2, and 3 which plans are endorsed by the undersigned circuit judges.

The Amended Administrative Plan for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Arkansas is hereby submitted to the Arkansas Supreme Court for approval on the 9 day of June, 2017.


Approved:




Doug Martin, Circuit Judge
First Division




Beth Storey Bryan, Circuit Judge
Fifth Division




John Threet, Circuit Judge
Second Division




Mark Lindsay, Circuit Judge
Sixth Division



Stacey A. Zimmerman, Circuit Judge
Third Division



Joanna Taylor, Circuit Judge
Seventh Division



Cristi Beaumont, Circuit Judge
Fourth Division