ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN

FOR

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Pursuant to "Administrative Order Number 14" of the Supreme Court of Arkansas, the Judges of the Seventh Judicial District adopt the following administrative plan.

1. The Seventh Judicial District consists of two Circuit Judges, namely, Chris E Williams and Eddy R. Easley.

2. The Seventh Judicial District shall be divided into two divisions as follows:

DIVISION 1	Chris E Williams
DIVISION 2	Eddy R. Easley

3. Any decisions relating to (a) Amendment 80 of the Arkansas Constitution, (b) Arkansas Supreme Court Administrative Order 14, delivered April 6, 2001, (c) subsequent orders and Per Curiam opinions, or to (d) division of cases within the Seventh Judicial District shall be by unanimous vote of all Circuit Judges in the Seventh Judicial District. In the event a unanimous vote of all Judges in the Seventh Judicial District cannot be reached on any matter, then such matter shall be submitted to the Arkansas Supreme Court for final resolution. Any matter submitted to the Arkansas Supreme Court for final resolution, all Judges of the Seventh Judicial District shall submit in writing the matter in dispute, with the reasons each Judge believes a matter should be decided by the Supreme Court.

4. All Circuit Court Judges within the Seventh Judicial District shall at all times have the authority and affirmative duty to hear all matters within the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court regardless of the designation of divisions. Scheduling of all cases for court shall be made by the parties through the Trial Court Assistants of the Circuit Judges.

5. For the purpose of judicial administration and caseload management, the following subject matter divisions in each county (Grant /Hot Spring) in the District are established:

A. Criminal

B. Civil

C. Juvenile

D. Probate

E. Domestic

The establishment of these divisions shall in no way limit the power and duties of any Circuit Judges in the Seventh Judicial District. Further, no Judge is excluded from hearing any case in any subject matter division which may come before him.

6. This plan has been designed taking into consideration special circumstances within the Seventh Judicial District and the individual experience and expertise of all judges.

The 2012 A.O.C calendar year statistics indicate of 2,552 filings, Division 1 received 1,418 cases and Division 2 received 1,134 cases under this plan for a difference of only 284 more cases in Division 1. Taking into consideration that the Division 2 Judge was the elected Prosecutor in 2012, all criminal cases were transferred to Division 1. The cases will level off in year 2013 since Division 2 is taking all criminal filings.

It has been, and will continue to be, the policy of each Judge in the Seventh Judicial District to exercise jurisdiction over all matters, regardless of subject matter division. And to act for, on behalf of, and in substitution for the other Judge when circumstances warrant, when it is appropriate for the convenience of the litigants, attorneys and witnesses, and all other times when not to act may likely cause justifiable criticism of the judiciary of the Seventh Judicial District.

Eddy R. Easley was Prosecuting Attorney for the Seventh Judicial District thru December 31, 2012. Judge Easley has a conflict on all criminal cases pending prior to January 1, 2013, since he was Prosecuting Attorney. Therefore, all criminal cases pending as of December 31, 2012, shall be heard by Judge Williams. Judge Williams will also be assigned all Drug Court cases and Judge Easley will be assigned all Swift Court cases.

To equalize the case loads between the two Judges, Judge Easley will take all criminal cases filed in 2013 until the criminal case load is equalized. As of 12-14-12 there are 234 active criminal cases in Hot Spring County and 112 active criminal cases in Grant County with approximately 348 outstanding felony warrants in Hot Spring County and 133 outstanding felony warrants in Grant County.

Judge Easley will conduct all plea and arraignments and all municipal appeals until this plan is modified by agreement of respective Judges and submitted for approval pursuant to Administrative Order 14. Judge Easley will also conduct all Juvenile and DHS cases through December 31, 2015. Judge Williams will conduct all Orders of Protection and CSEU cases until December 31, 2015, and until the plan is modified by the Judges in the Seventh Judicial District or the Supreme Court of Arkansas.

The Clerk of each subject matter division shall randomly assign all civil, domestic and probate cases equally to the Judges of the Seventh Judicial District.

The Seventh Judicial District is an automated court using the Contexte System approved by the Supreme Court. All civil, domestic and probate cases shall be randomly selected so an equal division of these cases will be maintained, other than modified by section 6 above.

7. SPECIALITY COURT PROGRAMS

The Hot Spring and Grant County Drug Court program has been in operation since July 20, 2005. Court sessions are conducted in Hot Spring County for both counties. The program utilizes a pre-adjudication process and is open to defendants who have committed eligible offenses and are recommended by the Prosecutor in the Seventh Judicial District, the Drug Court team consisting of the DCC Intake Officer, DCC Counselor, DCC Probation Officer, Public Defender and the Court. The Program is conducted in conformance with state Drug Court statutes (ACA 16-98-301 et seq.) and complies with applicable laws involving the assessment of fines, fees, court costs and probation fees. This program is funded by the Department of Community Correction and volunteer services of the Prosecutor, Public Defender and Circuit Judge.

The members of the team are consulted for purposes of scheduling, resources, and all conflicts with other court services are resolved by the Trial Court Judge, Chris E Williams.

Hot Spring and Grant County have been operating a "Swift Court" since July 1, 2012, under authority of the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Supreme Court (ACA 16-93-1701 et seq.) The program primarily utilizes a pre-adjudication process and is open

to defendants recommended by the Prosecutor. The program is conducted in conformance with the training sessions of the federally funded Hope Court located in Saline County and approved by the Arkansas Supreme Court. The program complies with applicable laws involving the assessment of fines, fees, court costs and probation fees. The program receives staff and funding from the Department of Community Correction. The members of the Swift Court program include the Prosecuting Attorney, Public Defender, DCC Probation Officer dedicated to Swift Court and the Circuit Judge, Eddy R. Easley.

8. A. Any case, including juvenile cases, in which any Judge in the Seventh Judicial District is available may be heard by the available Judge without the necessity of a specific exchange order submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

I. This practice has been followed by the Judges in our District in the past for all types of cases, including juvenile, and it has resulted in an almost equal division of cases between judges and the prompt, efficient disposition of cases in the Seventh Judicial District.

II. The above practice has also resulted in the prompt satisfactory disposition of cases for litigants and attorneys.

B. The assignment of cases in the above manner will prevent a workload imbalance between the Judges of the Seventh Judicial District. Further, while each division of the types of cases between the Judges is not equal, the case load between the Judges will be almost equal.

9. Recusals shall be avoided by both Judges if at all possible. Any recusal by one Judge shall be referred to the other Judge and if conflict continues to arise the Administrative Judge

shall refer the case for assignment by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Judges shall exchange cases of like nature if the recusing Judge is accepted by receiving Judge in order to maintain a balance of case load.

This Administrative Plan is unanimously adopted by the undersigned on this 6th day of June, 2013.

Chris E Williams

CHRIS E WILLIAMS
CIRCUIT JUDGE, DIVISION 1

Eddy R. Easley

EDDY R. EASLEY
CIRCUIT JUDGE, DIVISION 2