

Honorable Edmond Alonzo – 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St Lucie, FL 34986

Judicial Assistant: Jamilah (Jay) Simmons - email: simmonsj@circuit19.org

Assignment: All St Lucie County Civil Cases (designated with a “CC”, “EV”, or “TR” case number and Small Claims Cases (designated with a “SC” and a case number ending in 3, 6 or 9)

No hearing should be scheduled against an opposing attorney unless the motion has been filed or tendered to opposing counsel, discussed to attempt resolution, AND the date and time are coordinated. If more than two attempts, spread out over at least 4 business days, have been made by phone AND email, without a reply, then counsel may unilaterally set their hearing. All notices of hearing should certify what attempts were made to resolve and coordinate.

Scheduling can be done online for any hearing that will last less than one hour of time. There is no need to call my JA to schedule a hearing unless there is no date available, with sufficient time for your motion(s), within the next 60 days. My calendar may be found online on the 19th Circuit’s Website under Judges and Magistrates, or at the following link: https://slccjis.stlucieco.gov/attorney_calendar/ Most open dates on my calendar are designated either UMC or Special Set. UMC are for routine matters (often motions for extension of time, or to amend or withdraw) that can be argued by BOTH sides and ruled on in 10 minutes or less, and are usually found on Tuesday mornings. Telephonic appearance at an UMC hearing is always permissible through Court Call. You do not need a motion and order to appear by telephone at an UMC hearing. On the other hand, Special Set hearings are usually found on Thursday afternoons and require personal appearance, or require a motion and order to appear by telephone. If telephonic appearance at a Special Set hearing is granted, it will always require the use of Court Call, and applies to both sides equally (in other words, the proposed order should state that if it’s granted, either party may appear telephonically via Court Call). Special Set hearings are reserved for longer, more complicated matters (often cross-set or evidentiary motions, motions to strike or compel, motions for summary judgment or for attorney’s fees, or pretrial conferences) that will require anywhere from 10-60 minutes for argument and a ruling.

All original pleadings, stipulations, motions, and notices must be filed with the Clerk or eportal. Additionally, all parties are required to also mail (US Mail or overnight carrier – do not email) copies of the notice of hearing, motion, relevant pleadings, sufficient proposed orders (one original plus a copy for each party that does not already have an email address designated on the eportal), and stamped envelopes (again one for each party that does not already have an email address designated on the eportal) to my attention at least 5 days prior to hearing. The Court reserves the right to cancel any hearing, or to enter an ex parte order reversing an order orally pronounced at any hearing, without proposed orders and stamped envelopes provided in advance for immediate entry.

No attorneys may appear at any trial, eviction or claim of exemption hearing, or case management conference by telephone (unless Covid restrictions are in place). Witnesses may be permitted to appear by telephone after motion and order, by Court Call only, and in compliance with FRCP 1.451. Stipulations of any kind must be filed, but a SEPARATE, proposed order approving, may be sent via email, copied to opposing counsel. Filing a stipulation does not cancel a trial or case management conference. An order approving the stipulation is required to cancel a previously ORDERED hearing or trial (including pretrial in SMALL CLAIMS CASES).

Additionally, proposed orders to invoke the FRCP in small claims cases must retain Small Claims Rule 7.135 AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PROPOSED CASE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ORDER in compliance with AOSC20-23 and AO 2021-05 (see Forms). ALL COUNTY CIVIL CASES WILL ALSO REQUIRE A CASE MANAGEMENT PLAN TO BE FILED BY PLAINTIFF within 90 days, unless defendant is represented by an attorney. In those cases, defendant is responsible for coordinating and submitting a proposed case management plan within 30 days of their appearance.