

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR  
INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, OKEECHOBEE, AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES, FLORIDA

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-09**

**RE: JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2023**

**WHEREAS**, Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.215 states that “[t]he chief judge shall assign judges to the courts and divisions, and shall determine the length of each assignment”;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority conferred by Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.215, it is **ORDERED** the assignments for the judges in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit are as follows:

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**

**Honorable Cynthia L. Cox:**

All Domestic Relations Cases; including Injunctions for Protection; Assist with Mental Health Court/Veteran’s Court

**Honorable Janet C. Croom:**

All Civil Cases

**Honorable Victoria Griffin:**

All Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency Cases, including Detention and Shelter Hearings; All Probate<sup>1</sup> and Guardianship Cases; All substance abuse and mental health court cases (i.e. Baker and Marchman Act cases); All CINS/FINS Cases; All Risk Protection Order Cases; Member of the Indian River County Children’s Services Council; Assist criminal division on felony trial weeks as designated.

**Honorable Robert Meadows:**

All Felony Cases

**Honorable Nicole Menz:**

50% of Indian River County Court Cases; Mental Health Court; Veterans’ Court; County Election Canvassing Board

**Honorable Robyn E. Stone:**

50% of Indian River County Court Cases; Felony drug court cases; County Election Canvassing Board

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<sup>1</sup> All day-to-day filings (those not requiring hearing) will be processed by Okeechobee probate judge with Chief Judge assisting.

## **MARTIN COUNTY**

**Honorable William Roby:**

All Felony Cases

**Honorable Michael McNicholas:**

All Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency Cases (with the assistance of Judge Steele on Delinquency cases) including Shelter Hearings; 75% of Civil Non-Jury Cases (from time of filing), excluding Residential and Commercial Mortgage Foreclosure Cases; All Jimmy Ryce Cases; All Probate<sup>2</sup> and Guardianship Cases; All Risk Protection Order Cases; All substance abuse and mental health court cases (i.e. Baker and Marchman Act); Member of the Martin County Children's Services Council

**Honorable Steven Levin:** All Felony Drug Court cases.

**Honorable Charles Schwab (Chief Judge):**

Assist with all Specialty Courts

**Honorable Elizabeth Metzger:**

All Civil Jury Trial Cases and Mortgage Foreclosure Cases; Assist with Civil Non-Jury Cases

**Honorable Brett M. Waronicki:**

All Domestic Relations Cases, including Injunctions for Protection

**Honorable Kathleen H. Roberts:**

One-third of Martin County Court Cases; County Election Canvassing Board

**Honorable Darren Steele:**

One-third of Martin County Court Cases; Delinquency Cases as directed by Judge McNicholas (through June 30, 2023), including Detention Hearings; Assist with Felony Cases

**Honorable Jennifer A. Alcorta Waters:**

One-third of Martin County Court Cases; Mental Health Court; Assist with Felony and Juvenile Drug Court; Supervision of Traffic Magistrates for all Civil Traffic matters; Assist Circuit Civil Non-Jury Cases- 25% (from time of filing) excluding Residential and Commercial Mortgage Foreclosure Cases

## **OKEECHOBEE COUNTY**

**Honorable Rebecca Ivy White:**

50% of all Domestic Relations Cases including Injunctions for Protection (all odd assigned DR case numbers); All Civil Cases; All Probate and Guardianship Cases (includes processing of day-to-day, non-hearing, circuit wide filings with assistance of Chief Judge); All Dependency Cases, including Shelter Hearings daily; Assist with Truancy Court; Assist with Mental Health Court; Assist with Juvenile Delinquency Cases, Early Childhood Court

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<sup>2</sup> All day-to-day filings (those not requiring hearing) will be processed by Okeechobee probate judge with Chief Judge assisting.

**Honorable Laurie Buchanan:**

50% of all Domestic Relations cases including Injunctions for Protection (all even assigned DR case numbers); All Felony Cases; All substance abuse and mental health court cases (i.e. Baker and Marchman Act); All Risk Protection Order Cases; All Juvenile Delinquency Cases, including Detention Hearings

**Honorable William Wallace:**

All Okeechobee County Court Cases; Assist with Felony Drug Court cases; Mental Health Court; Veteran's Court; Assist with Juvenile Delinquency Cases, including Detention Hearings; Assist with Truancy Court; Assist with Probate cases; Member of the Okeechobee County Children's Services Council

**ST. LUCIE COUNTY**

**Honorable Robert Belanger:**

All Non-Jury Civil Cases, including Residential Mortgage Foreclosures; Weekday First Appearance Hearings (in rotation with County Court Judges); All civil forfeiture cases; Veteran's Court

**Honorable Dan Vaughn:**

All Civil Jury Trial Cases; All Probate<sup>3</sup> and Guardianship Cases; All substance abuse and mental health court cases (i.e. Baker and Marchman Act); All Risk Protection Order Cases

**Honorable Sherwood Bauer:**

50% of Domestic Relations Cases, including Injunctions for Protection (L-Z of alphabet); Assist Juvenile Division with Detention and Shelter Hearings

**Honorable Leatha Mullins:**

50% of Domestic Relations Cases, including Injunctions for Protection (A-K of alphabet); Assist Juvenile Division with Detention and Shelter Hearings

**Honorable Steven Levin:**

One-third of Felony Cases; Assist Felony Drug Court; Assist Juvenile Drug Court

**Honorable Michael Linn:**

All Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency Cases, including Shelter and Detention Hearings; Member of St. Lucie County Children's Services Council

**Honorable Lawrence Mirman:**

One-third of Felony Cases; Assist with Mental Health Court

**Honorable Michael Heisey:**

One-third of Felony Cases

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<sup>3</sup> All day-to-day filings (those not requiring hearing) will be processed by Okeechobee probate judge with Chief Judge assisting.

**Honorable Charles Schwab (Chief Judge):**

Mental Health Court; Juvenile Drug Court; Felony Drug Court; Assist with all dockets throughout the circuit, including Civil and Criminal trials;

**Honorable Edmond W. Alonzo:**

All St. Lucie County Court Civil Cases and Landlord/Tenant Cases; All Traffic Infractions involving serious injury or death; All Traffic Magistrate recusals and/or disqualifications; 30% of Small Claim Cases including Replevin; County Election Canvassing Board

**Honorable Jeffrey Hendriks:**

40% of St. Lucie County Court Criminal Cases (D-Mo of alphabet); All County Ordinance Cases; County Election Canvassing Board; Assist Veteran's Court

**Honorable Daryl Isenhower:**

20% of St. Lucie County Court Criminal Cases (A-C of alphabet); 70% of Small Claims Cases including Replevin; All Collections Court; County Election Canvassing Board

**Honorable Kathryn Nelson:**

40% of St. Lucie County Court Criminal Cases (Mp-Z of alphabet); Domestic Violence Diversion Program (Criminal/DVDP); County Election Canvassing Board

**WEEKEND FIRST APPEARANCE**

All Circuit Court Judges assigned to St. Lucie County and Okeechobee County will be responsible, with the St. Lucie County Court Judges, for Weekend First Appearances, Shelter Hearings, and Detention Hearings in St. Lucie County.

All Circuit Court Judges assigned to Indian River County will be responsible, in rotation with Indian River County Judges, for Weekend First Appearances and Shelter Hearings in Indian River County.

All Circuit Court Judges assigned to Martin County will be responsible, in rotation with Martin County Judges, for Weekend First Appearances and Shelter Hearings in Martin County.

All Circuit Court Judges assigned to Martin County and Indian River County will be responsible, in rotation with the Okeechobee County Judge, for Weekend First Appearances and Shelter Hearings in Okeechobee County. Any County Court Judge in Martin and Indian River County may choose to assist with the Weekend First Appearances and Shelter Hearings in Okeechobee County.

**ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES**

Honorable Cynthia L. Cox, Domestic Relations Division/Unified Family Court<sup>4</sup>

Honorable Lawrence Mirman, Criminal Division

Honorable Janet C. Croom, Civil Division

Honorable Elizabeth A. Metzger, Appellate Division

Honorable Steven J. Levin, Problem-Solving Courts

**APPELLATE DIVISION**

All Circuit and County Judges

**PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS-JUDICIAL CHAIRPERSON**

**FAMILY LAW ADVISORY GROUP**

St. Lucie ..... Judge Mullins

Martin ..... Judge Waronicki

Indian River ..... Judge Cox

Okeechobee ..... Judge White

PRO BONO COMMITTEE..... Judge Waronicki

BENCH/BAR PROFESSIONALISM..... Judge Isenhower

SMALL CLAIMS MEDIATION..... Judge Steele

**TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

Judge Roby, Chair

Members: Judge Belanger, Judge Buchanan, Judge

Levin, Judge Metzger, Judge Mirman, Judge Cox,

Judge Mullins

**FUTURE GROWTH AND LONG RANGE PLANNING  
COMMITTEE**

Judge Schwab, Chair

Members: Judge Bauer, Judge Belanger,

Judge Mirman, Judge Metzger

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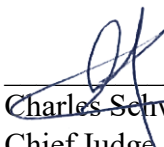
<sup>4</sup> Includes Juvenile Division

**TRIAL COURT SECURITY COMMITTEE**

Judge Belanger, Chair

Members: Judge Heisey, Judge McNicholas, Judge Metzger,  
Judge Roberts, Judge Schwab, Judge Waters, Judge Menz

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Ft. Pierce, St. Lucie County, Florida, September 6, 2022.

  
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Charles Schwab  
Chief Judge

Electronically Signed by Chief Judge Charles A. Schwab  
3:46 pm, Sep 06, 2022