

**IN THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER S-2012-003  
(Supersedes Administrative Order S-2008-166)**

**TOBACCO LITIGATION**

It is necessary for the proper and efficient administration of justice in the General Civil Division to amend the procedures for the management of tobacco personal injury litigation. By the power vested in the chief judge under article V, section 2(D), Florida Constitution; section 43.26, Florida Statutes; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2), it is therefore **ORDERED:**

**1. General Civil Division "C" – Pretrial Matters**

All tobacco personal injury lawsuits which are pending in General Civil Division "D," except cases which have already been activated for trial, will be transferred to General Civil Division "C" to be coordinated for pretrial proceedings.

**2. Trial**

When counsel have identified cases ready for trial according to the respective case management orders, the presiding judge of General Civil Division "C" will direct the Clerk of the Circuit Court to assign such cases to divisions in the General Civil Division, excluding Divisions "L," "T" and "Z," using a random and equitable distribution system. Any cases transferred from Division "C" to another division for trial will remain assigned to the successor division for all matters.

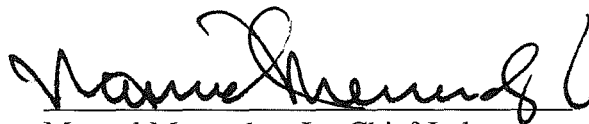
**3. Previous Administrative Order Superseded**

This administrative order supersedes Administrative Order S-2008-166 (*Tobacco Litigation*).

**4. Effective Date**

This administrative order is effective immediately.

It is ORDERED in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012.

  
Manuel Menendez, Jr., Chief Judge

Original to: Pat Frank, Clerk of Court  
Copy to: All General Civil Division Judges  
Hillsborough County Bar Association