

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER S-2012-009  
(Supersedes Administrative Order S-2012-003)**

**TOBACCO DIVISION**

It is necessary for the proper and efficient administration of justice in the General Civil Division to create a separate subdivision 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 “Y” – Tobacco Division**

General Civil Division “Y” is established as a new subdivision to manage all tobacco personal injury lawsuits at the pretrial stage. All tobacco personal injury lawsuits which are pending in any General Civil Division, except cases which have already been activated for trial, will be transferred to Division “Y” for coordination of pretrial proceedings. The term “activated for trial” means that a case is ready for trial according to the case management order, and the presiding judge has entered an order confirming such status.

**2. Trial**

When a case is activated for trial, the presiding judge of Division “Y” will direct the Clerk of the Circuit Court to assign the case, using a random and equitable distribution system, to one of the divisions in the General Civil Division, excluding Divisions “L,” “T,” “Y,” and “Z.” Any cases transferred from Division “Y” 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 Previous Administrative Order Superseded**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-2012-003 (*Tobacco Litigation*).

**4. Effective Date**

This administrative order is effective March 1, 2012.

It is ORDERED in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012.

  
Manuel Menendez, Jr., Chief Judge

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