

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

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER A-2026-046
(Supersedes Administrative Orders A-2025-060, A-2026-009, A-2026-017,
A-2026-026, A-2026-035, and A-2026-036)**

JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(4) empowers the chief judge to assign judges to the courts and divisions and to determine the length of each assignment. Rule 2.215(b)(5) authorizes the chief judge to designate administrative judges of any division to assist with the administrative supervision of the division. Rule 2.215(b)(2) provides that the chief judge may enter and sign administrative orders.

By the power vested in the chief judge under article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution; Florida Statutes section 43.26; and the above-referenced rules of general practice and judicial administration, it is ORDERED that the judges of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court and the judges of the Hillsborough County Court are assigned to the following divisions and subdivisions and designated as administrative judges:

CIRCUIT COURT

Circuit Civil Division

Cheryl K. Thomas is assigned to Circuit Civil Division "A" through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Joseph M. Tompkins* is assigned to Circuit Civil Division "A."

Thomas N. Palermo is assigned to Circuit Civil Division "B."

Melissa M. Polo is assigned to Circuit Civil Division "C."

J. Logan Murphy is assigned to Circuit Civil Division "D."

Cynthia S. Oster is assigned to Circuit Civil Division "E."

Jennifer X. Gabbard is assigned to Circuit Civil Division "F."

Christopher C. Nash is assigned to Circuit Civil Division “G.”

Helene L. Daniel is assigned to Circuit Civil Division “H.”

Paul L. Huey is assigned to Circuit Civil Division “I.”

Alissa M. Ellison is assigned to Circuit Civil Division “J.”

Christine A. Marlewski is assigned to Circuit Civil Division “K” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Michael J. Hooi* is assigned to Circuit Civil Division “K.”

Darren D. Farfante is assigned to Circuit Civil Division “L” (Business Court).

Laura E. Ward is assigned to Circuit Civil Division “O” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Jessica G. Costello* is assigned to Circuit Civil Division “O.”

Kimberly K. Fernandez is assigned to Circuit Civil Division “T” (Jimmy Ryce Act Division).

Paul L. Huey is assigned to Circuit Civil Division “Y” (Tobacco Division).

Darren D. Farfante is assigned to Circuit Civil Division “Z” (Asbestos Litigation).

Circuit Criminal Division

Barbara Twine Thomas is assigned to Circuit Criminal Division “A” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Laura E. Ward* is assigned to Circuit Criminal Division “A.”

Kimberly K. Fernandez is assigned to Circuit Criminal Division “B.”

Lawrence M. Lefler is assigned to Circuit Criminal Division “C.”

G. Gregory Green is assigned to Circuit Criminal Division “D.”

Mark D. Kiser is assigned to Circuit Criminal Division “E.”

Lindsay M. Alvarez is assigned to Circuit Criminal Division “F.”

Nick Nazaretian is assigned to Circuit Criminal Division “G.”

Elizabeth G. Rice is assigned to Circuit Criminal Division “I” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Jeffrey M. Rich* is assigned to Circuit Criminal Division “I.”

D. Michelle Sisco is assigned to Circuit Criminal Division “J” (Post-Conviction Relief Division).

D. Michelle Sisco is assigned to Circuit Criminal Division “K” (Violation of Probation Division).

Michael J. Scionti is assigned to Circuit Criminal Division “M” (Mental Health).

Richard H. Martin is assigned to Criminal Division “O” (Preliminary Proceedings).

Drug Court Division

Michael J. Scionti is assigned to Adult Drug Treatment Court Division “W.”

Denise A. Pomponio is assigned to Drug Court Division “Z” (Marchman Act Division).

East Division

Michael S. Williams is assigned to East Circuit Division “O” (Probate and Trust).

Michael S. Williams is assigned to East Circuit Division “P” (Civil and Family).

Michael S. Williams is assigned to East Circuit Division “Q” (Protective Injunctions).

Cory L. Chandler is assigned to East Circuit Division “R” (Civil and Family).

Cory L. Chandler is assigned to East Circuit Division “S” (Protective Injunctions).

James S. Moody, III is assigned to East Circuit Division “T” (Civil and Family).

Cory L. Chandler is assigned to East Circuit Division “U” (Probate and Trust).

James S. Moody, III is assigned to East Circuit Division “V” (Protective Injunctions).

James S. Moody, III is assigned to East Circuit Division “W” (Probate and Trust).

Family Law Division

Matthew L. Felix is assigned to Family Law Division “A.”

Joseph M. Tompkins is assigned to Family Law Division “B” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Sara K. Peacock* is assigned to Family Law Division “B.”

Wendy J. DePaul is assigned to Family Law Division “C.”

Kelly A. Ayers is assigned to Family Law Division “D.”

Michael J. Hooi is assigned to Family Law Division “E” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Dawn M. Myers* is assigned to Family Law Division “E.”

Wesley D. Tibbals is assigned to Family Law Division “F.”

Jeffrey M. Rich is assigned to Family Law Division “I” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Leland T. Baldwin* is assigned to Family Law Division “I.”

Robert A. Bauman is assigned to Family Law Division “J.”

Robin F. Fuson is assigned to Family Law Division “L.”

Mary Lou Cuellar-Stilo is assigned to Family Law Division “Y” (Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Division).

Juvenile Delinquency Division

Denise A. Pomponio is assigned to Juvenile Delinquency Division “A.”

Kim Brennan is assigned to Juvenile Delinquency Division “B” (Mental Health).

Denise A. Pomponio is assigned to Juvenile Delinquency Division “E” (Juvenile Drug Court).

Kim Brennan is assigned to Juvenile Delinquency Division “F.”

Juvenile Dependency Division

Emily A. Peacock is assigned to Juvenile Dependency Division “B” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Nina McGucken Alvarez* is assigned to Juvenile Dependency Division “B.”

Lisa D. Campbell is assigned to Juvenile Dependency Division “D.”

Katherine G. Essrig is assigned to Juvenile Dependency Division “I” (Independent Living Transition Services) through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Emily A. Peacock* is assigned to Juvenile Dependency Division “I.”

Emily A. Peacock is assigned to Juvenile Dependency Division “J” (Family Dependency Treatment Court).

Leslie K. Schultz-Kin is assigned to Juvenile Dependency Division “S.”

Katherine G. Essrig is assigned to Juvenile Dependency Division “V” (Dependency Specialty) through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Emily A. Peacock* is assigned to Juvenile Dependency Division “V.”

Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division

Catherine M. Catlin is assigned to Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division “A” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Cheryl K. Thomas* is assigned to Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division “A.”

Caroline Tesche Arkin is assigned to Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division “B” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Elizabeth G. Rice* is assigned to Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division “B.”

Michael J. Scionti is assigned to Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division “M” (Mental Health).

Caroline Tesche Arkin is assigned to Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division “N” (Risk Protection Orders) through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Kim Brennan* is assigned to Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division “N.”

Protective Injunctions Division

Frances M. Perrone is assigned to Protective Injunctions Division “G.”

Jessica G. Costello is assigned to Protective Injunctions Division “H” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Christine D. Edwards* is assigned to Protective Injunctions Division “H.”

Melissa C. Black is assigned to Protective Injunctions Division “K.”

Jennifer P. Johnson is assigned to Protective Injunctions Division “M.”

Trial Divisions

D. Michelle Sisco is assigned to Circuit Civil Trial Division “1” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Christopher C. Sabella* is assigned to Circuit Civil Trial Division “1.”

Lyann Goudie is assigned to Circuit Civil Trial Division “2” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Christine A. Marlewski* is assigned to Circuit Civil Trial Division “2.”

Mark R. Wolfe is assigned to Circuit Civil Trial Division “3.”

D. Michelle Sisco is assigned to Circuit Criminal Trial Division “1” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Christopher C. Sabella* is assigned to Circuit Criminal Trial Division “1.”

Lyann Goudie is assigned to Circuit Criminal Trial Division “2” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Christine A. Marlewski* is assigned to Circuit Criminal Trial Division “2.”

Mark R. Wolfe is assigned to Circuit Criminal Trial Division “3.”

Veterans Treatment Court Division

Michael J. Scionti is assigned to Veterans Treatment Court Division “V.”

COUNTY COURT

County Civil Division

James S. Giardina is assigned to County Civil Division “H.”

Christine D. Edwards is assigned to County Civil Division “I” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Travis J. Coy* is assigned to County Civil Division “I.”

Michael C. Baggé-Hernández is assigned to County Civil Division “J.”

Jessica G. Costello is assigned to County Civil Division “K” through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Christine D. Edwards* is assigned to County Civil Division “K.”

Christopher J. Saba is assigned to County Civil Division “L.”

Adam L. Bantner is assigned to County Civil Division “M.”

Branden M. Henderson is assigned to County Civil Division “N.”

Lisa A. Allen is assigned to County Civil Division “O.”

Marc S. Makholm is assigned to County Civil Division “P.”

Colleen O’Brien is assigned to County Civil Division “R.”

Melissa C. Black is assigned to County Civil Division “S.”

Mary Lou Cuellar-Stilo is assigned to County Civil Division “T” (Non-Criminal Non-Traffic Infractions).

Jennifer P. Johnson is assigned to County Civil Division “U.”

Jack N. Gutman is assigned to County Civil Division “V.”

Daryl Manning is assigned to County Civil Division “X.”

County Civil Traffic Division

Mary Lou Cuellar-Stilo is assigned to County Civil Traffic Division “M.”

County Criminal Division

Matthew A. Smith is assigned to County Criminal Division “A.”

Margaret R. Taylor is assigned to County Criminal Division “B.”

Miriam V. Valkenburg is assigned to County Criminal Division “C.”

Christopher E. Brown is assigned to County Criminal Division “D.”

Monique M. Scott is assigned to County Criminal Division “E.”

Frances M. Perrone is assigned to County Criminal Domestic Violence Division “F.”

Richard H. Martin is assigned to Criminal Division “O” (Preliminary Proceedings).

East Division

Jeremy R. Griner is assigned to East County Civil Traffic Division “W.”

Jeremy R. Griner is assigned to East County Criminal Division “X.”

Jeremy R. Griner is assigned to East County Civil Division “Y.”

Administrative Judges

Darren D. Farfante is designated as administrative judge of the Circuit Civil Division.

Caroline Tesche Arkin is designated as administrative judge of the Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Cheryl K. Thomas* is designated as administrative judge of the Probate, Guardianship, Mental Health & Trust Division.

James S. Moody, III is designated as administrative judge of the East Division.

D. Michelle Sisco is designated as administrative judge of the Circuit Criminal Division.

Michael J. Scionti is designated as administrative judge of Veterans Treatment Court.

Michael J. Scionti is designated as administrative judge of Adult Drug Court.

Wendy J. DePaul is designated as administrative judge of the Family Law Division.

Frances M. Perrone is designated as administrative judge of the Protective Injunctions Division.

Kim Brennan is designated as administrative judge of the Juvenile Delinquency Division.

Katherine G. Essrig is designated as administrative judge of the Juvenile Dependency Division through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Emily A. Peacock* is designated as administrative judge of the Juvenile Dependency Division.

Frances M. Perrone is designated as administrative judge of the County Criminal Division.

Jessica G. Costello is designated as administrative judge of the County Civil Division through January 4, 2027. Effective January 5, 2027, *Melissa C. Black* is designated as administrative judge of the County Civil Division.

Acting Circuit Judges & Acting County Judges

All county court judges assigned to circuit court divisions are temporarily appointed as acting circuit court judges. All circuit court judges assigned to county court divisions are temporarily appointed as acting county court judges.

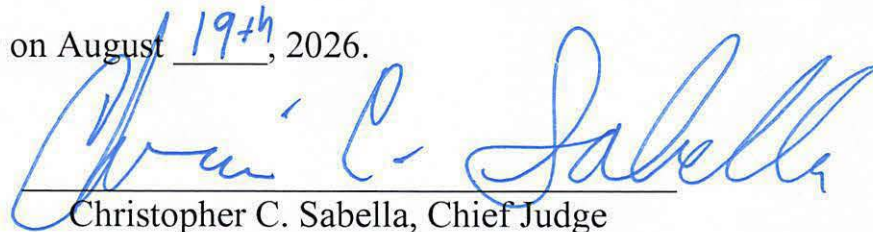
Previous Administrative Orders Superseded

This administrative order supersedes Administrative Order A-2025-060 (*Judicial Assignments*), A-2026-009 (*Judicial Assignments Update*), Administrative Order A-2026-017 (*Judicial Assignments Update*), Administrative Order A-2026-026 (*Judicial Assignments Update*), Administrative Order A-2026-035 (*Judicial Assignments Update*), and Administrative Order A-2026-036 (*Judicial Assignments Update*).

Effective Date

Except as otherwise indicated in this administrative order, the foregoing judicial assignments and designations of administrative judges are effective on January 1, 2027.

ENTERED on August 19th, 2026.



Christopher C. Sabella, Chief Judge

Original: Victor D. Crist, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Copy: All Judges, General Magistrates, and Hearing Officers
Rob Snyder, Trial Court Administrator
Susan S. Lopez, State Attorney
Lisa B. McLean, Public Defender
Chad Chronister, Hillsborough County Sheriff
Ita M. Neymotin, Regional Counsel, Second District
Paul Britten, Superintendent, Hillsborough Regional
Juvenile Detention Center
Ashley G. Cannon, Managing Attorney designate,
Children's Legal Services
Michelle Farquharson, Quality Management Director,
Children's Network of Southwest Florida
Alicia Tarrant, Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office
Department of Juvenile Justice
Hillsborough County Bar Association