



IN THE COURTS OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington Counties
THE STATE OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER #2022-00-02
(Rescinding Administrative Order #2021-00-13)

RE: ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN FOR THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JANUARY 1, 2022 – JANUARY 1, 2024

Whereas, pursuant to Article V, Section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, the chief judge of each circuit is charged with the authority and power to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice, and

Whereas, the Chief Judge, pursuant to Rule 2.215, Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, has the responsibility to develop an administrative plan for the efficient and proper administration of all courts within the circuit, and

Whereas, the Chief Judge, through the plan, ensures the administrative organization of the circuit to affect the prompt disposition of cases and effective use of court resources,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the following Administrative Plan for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit will be effective January 1, 2022 through January 1, 2024, unless amended or rescinded by further order of the court.

PURPOSE

Upon the effective date, this administrative plan rescinds the previous plan and adopts a plan that outlines the administration of the courts for the circuit as required by Rule 2.215, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, and describes the organizational structure of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF CHIEF JUDGE

The Chief Judge of the circuit, the Honorable Christopher N. Patterson, exercises administrative supervision over all courts within the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit and is empowered with judicial and administrative authority for the judges and officers of the Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit. The Chief Judge is responsible to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida.

The duties of the Chief Judge as outlined by Florida Statute 43.26 are:

- To assign judges to any division of the court and to determine the length of the assignment.
- To regulate the use of the courtrooms and supervise dockets and calendars.
- To require attendance of state attorneys, public defenders, clerks, bailiffs, and all other officers of the court.
- To do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice in the courts over which he is chief judge.
- To delegate to the trial court administrator, by administrative order, the authority to bind the circuit in contract; and
- To manage, operate, and oversee the jury system as provided in section 40.001, Florida Statutes.
- To represent the judiciary, or assign designee, to participate in the mental health task force in accordance with s. 394.657, Florida Statutes.

The Chief Judge oversees court administration as outlined in Rule 2.215, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, and shall ensure an appropriate and sound organizational structure for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit. In this capacity, the Chief Judge shall directly supervise the Trial Court Administrator.

In support of the administrative responsibility, the Chief Judge shall sign all Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Administrative Orders that effect the administration of the circuit. All Administrative Orders shall be filed with the Trial Court Administrator who will record each order with the appropriate Clerk of Court.

The Chief Judge shall serve as a member of the First District Court of Appeals Senior Judge Review Board.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

The Chief Judge may appoint administrative judges to ensure the efficient and effective management of the circuit's various divisions and courts. These appointments and specific duties are as follows:

1. **Judge Brantley S. Clark, Jr. – *Acting Chief Judge***
Acting Chief Judge: Judge Brantley S. Clark, Jr., shall serve as Acting Chief Judge when Chief Judge is absent from the circuit.
2. **Judge Elijah Smiley – *Administrative Probate/Guardianship Judge***
Duties include *circuit wide* general administrative oversight of Probate/Guardianship divisions and courts, and guardianship court programs.
 - a. Monitoring probate and guardianship case time standards for compliance with R.2.250 and 2.545.
3. **Judge Peter A. Mallory – *Administrative Juvenile Judge***
Duties include *circuit wide* general administrative oversight of juvenile divisions and courts, and juvenile court programs, including:

- a. Monitoring juvenile case time standards for compliance with R.2.250 and 2.545.
- b. Oversight of teen court.

4. Judge Ana Maria Garcia – Administrative Criminal Judge for Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington Counties

Duties include general administrative oversight of criminal divisions and courts, and criminal court programs including:

- a. Monitoring criminal case time standards for compliance with R.2.250 and 2.545.
- b. Monitoring juror time management for compliance with R.2.256.
- c. Examining the status of inmates in the county jail for compliance with R.2.215(b)8.
- d. Ensuring that Grand Juries are empaneled in compliance with Administrative Order #2014-00-01 and applicable law.
- e. Monitor pending post-conviction or collateral relief cases for compliance with R.2.215(b)7.

5. Judge Dustin Stephenson – Administrative Criminal Law Judge for Bay County

Duties include general administrative oversight of criminal divisions and courts, and criminal court programs including:

- a. Monitoring criminal case time standards for compliance with R.2.250 and 2.545.
- b. Monitoring juror time management for compliance with R.2.256.
- c. Examining the status of inmates in the county jail for compliance with R.2.215(b)8.
- d. Empaneling the Grand jury in Bay County in compliance with Administrative Order #2014-00-01 and applicable law.
- e. Monitor pending post-conviction cases for compliance with R.2.215(b)7.
- f. Therapeutic Justice Court.

6. Judge James J. Goodman – Administrative Civil Law Judge

Duties include *circuit wide* general administrative oversight of civil divisions and courts, and civil court programs including:

- a. Monitoring civil case time standards for compliance with R.2.250., 2.215(f), and 2.545.

7. Judge William S. Henry – Administrative Family Law Judge

Duties include *circuit wide* general administrative oversight of family divisions and courts, and family court programs including:

- a. Monitoring family case time standards for compliance with R.2.250 and 2.215(f), and 2.545.
- b. Ensuring family law division operates as provided by R.12.003 and 12.004.
- c. Monitoring family court programs.
- d. Supervising Judge of magistrates and child support hearing officers.

8. Judge Joe Grammer - Administrative County Court Judge for Bay County

Duties include general administrative oversight of Bay County Court, and county court programs including:

- a. Monitoring criminal case time standards for compliance with R.2.250, 2.215(f) and 2.545.
- b. Monitoring juror time management for compliance with R.2.256.

- c. Examining the status of inmates in the county jail for compliance with R.2.215(b)8.
- d. Monitoring county court programs.

9. Judge Colby Peel – *Administrative County Court Judge for Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington Counties*

Duties include general administrative oversight of Bay County Court, and county court programs including:

- a. Monitoring criminal case time standards for compliance with R.2.250, 2.215(f) and 2.545.
- b. Monitoring juror time management for compliance with R.2.256.
- c. Examining the status of inmates in the county jail for compliance with R.2.215(b)8.
- d. Monitoring county court programs.

COURT COMMITTEES AND RELATED APPOINTMENTS

The following committees are created to help ensure the efficient and proper administration of the court and to receive circuit-wide input. Each court committee chairperson should report to the chief judge for directions or guidance relative to the area that their committee oversees. These committees and appointments are as follows:

- 1. Court Technology Advisory Committee** – The Chief Judge, the Trial Court Technology Officer, the Trial Court Administrator, Judge Dustin Stephenson, Judge Colby Peel, Judge Ana Garcia, and Judge Timothy C. Campbell. **Task:** Review and recommend technology changes having circuit wide impact.
- 2. Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Bench/Bar & Professionalism Committee** – The Chief Judge, Judge William S. Henry, Judge Timothy Register, Judge Shane Vann, Judge Russell S. Roberts, Judge Brandon J. Young, and Judge Devin D. Collier. **Tasks:** To provide a mechanism for communications and dialogue between the bar and the bench; to enhance professionalism; and to comply with SC13-688.
- 3. Bay County Law Library Committee** – Judge Dustin Stephenson and Judge Joe Grammer shall serve as judicial members on the Bay County Law Library Board.
- 4. Bay County Court Building/Facilities Committee** – Judge Brantley S. Clark, Jr., Judge Peter A. Mallory, Judge William S. Henry and Judge Joe Grammer, Magistrate Shannon Lord, Hearing Officer Grant Spitzer, and Court Administration shall serve as ad hoc committee members for all matters impacting construction and/or remodeling of court facilities.
- 5. Fourteenth Judicial Circuit/Bay County Opioid Task Force**– Judge Dustin Stephenson shall serve as the judicial member to the stakeholders committee focusing on education, treatment and prevention, and to serve as the Circuit representative for any statewide committees focusing on the continuing crisis of opioid dependence and training initiatives.
- 6. Personnel Advisory Committee** – The Chief Judge as chair, the Trial Court Administrator, the Supervising Administrative Judge, and the relevant staff manager, or

other committees and individuals as designated by the chief judge. **Task:** Review and recommend to the chief judge candidates to fill vacant positions, except the Trial Court Administrator and judicial assistants.

- 7. **Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee Judicial Representative** – Judge Brandon J. Young.
- 8. **Fourteenth Circuit Judge Mentors** – The Chief Judge shall serve as mentor coordinator for this program, pursuant to R. 2.320. The following are certified mentor judges: Judge Brantley S. Clark, Jr., Judge Colby Peel, and Judge Shane Vann.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR

The Trial Court Administrator of the Circuit exercises administrative supervision over designated court programs for and on behalf of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit. The Trial Court Administrator provides direct supervision to court administration state and county funded court employees assigned to the circuit on behalf of the judges. Also, the Trial Court Administrator develops the circuit’s budget requests for each of the counties and the state; coordinates the circuit’s response to American with Disabilities Act requests; and oversees other functions related to the executive and administrative governance of the trial court system. The Trial Court Administrator reports directly to the Chief Judge of the Circuit.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ADMINSTRATIVE PLAN

Amendments, deletions, or additions to this administrative plan shall be made as needed.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at Panama City, Bay County, this 1ST day of February, 2022.



**CHRISTOPHER N. PATTERSON
CHIEF JUDGE**



**A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
BILL KINSAUL CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**
By Gabriela Barbera
Deputy Clerk