

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN

11th District District Courts of Lawrence, Randolph, and Sharp Counties

1. JUDGES.

The Lawrence, Randolph and Sharp County District Courts are a state district court served by two (2) judges. The judges serve in the statutorily designated departments of the court as follows:

<u>Judge</u>	<u>District / Division</u>	<u>Department</u>
Hon. Mark Johnson	Sharp County District Court/ Division 1	Ash Flat Department 718 Ash Flat Drive, PO Box 2 Ash Flat, Arkansas 72513
Hon. Mark Johnson	Sharp County District Court/ Division 1	Cherokee Village Department 2 Santee Drive, PO Box 129 Cherokee Village, Arkansas 72425
Hon. Alexander Bigger	Randolph County District Court/ Division 2	Pocahontas Department 1510 Pace Road Pocahontas, Arkansas 72455
Alternating*	Lawrence County District Court/ Divisions 1 and 2	Walnut Ridge Department 116 Northwest 3 rd Street Walnut Ridge, Arkansas

The statutory authority for the organization and designation of this district court is found is found at A.C.A. §16-17-1113(c)(1).

Consolidation of City Courts with District Courts

Pursuant to A.C.A. §16-17-1202, the following towns or cities are no longer operating as a department of the district court and a copy of the local ordinance abolishing the city as a department of the court has been provided to AOC with this plan.

<u>Town / City Abolished as Department</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
None.	

2. OTHER JURISDICTIONAL AREAS.

The following cities and towns have police departments but have not been designated as statutory departments of the district court. Pursuant to A.C.A. §16-17-1203, these cities and town contribute to the operational expenses of the district court and file cases in the district court.

<u>City / Town</u>	<u>Department Where Cases are Filed / Heard</u>
City of Ravenden	Walnut Ridge

**3. COURT SESSIONS AND TYPES OF CASE BY SUBJECT MATTER
(Criminal, Traffic, Civil and Small Claims).**

Sessions of the court are generally scheduled on the following days of the week at the following times:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Type of Case</u>
Division 1	Ash Flat	1 st Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Criminal / Traffic
		1 st Friday	9:00 a.m.	Small Claims / Civil
		3 rd Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Criminal Trials
Division 1	Cherokee Village	3 rd Friday	9:00 a.m.	Criminal / Traffic
Division 2	Pocahontas	1 st Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Criminal / Traffic
		2 nd Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Criminal / Traffic
		3 rd Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Criminal Trials
		4 th Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Criminal Trials
		1 st Monday	9:00 a.m.	Arraignment
Division 1 or 2	Walnut Ridge	2 nd Monday	9:00 a.m.	Small Claims / Civil
		1st or 2nd Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Criminal / Traffic
		1st or 2nd Friday	9:00 a.m.	Criminal Trials
		3rd or 4th Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Criminal / Traffic
		3rd or 4th Friday	9:00 a.m.	Criminal Trials
		4 th Monday	9:00 a.m.	Small Claims / Civil

Mandatory Holding of Court for Departments of a District Court

Pursuant to A.C.A. §16-17-138, sessions of court are held at least one (1) time per month unless mutually waived by the district court judge and the governing body of the city or town where the department is located.

Or

A written agreement waiving the mandatory holding of court for departments of a district court has been entered into and has been adopted by ordinance of the governing body of the city or town in which the department is located.

Based upon said written agreement, sessions of court for the Black Rock, Hoxie, and Portia Department are held in the Walnut Ridge Department.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 18 REFERRALS FROM CIRCUIT COURT.

The following matters are referred from circuit court and have been included in the circuit court administrative plan:

Consent Jurisdiction. Upon the consent of all parties, the following types of cases are referred from circuit court:

- Civil
- Domestic Relations
- Probate

Protective Orders.

<u>Type of Matters</u>	<u>District / Division</u>	<u>Day / Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Protective Orders (<i>ex parte</i> orders of protection <u>only</u>)	Alternating 1 or 2	On call or on an "as needed" basis	All departments

Forcible Entry and Detainers / Unlawful Detainer.

Other Matters of an Emergency or Uncontested Nature Pending in Civil, Domestic Relations or Probate Division.

<u>Type of Matters</u>	<u>District / Division</u>	<u>Day / Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Involuntary commitment (emergency holds <u>only</u>)	Alternating 1 or 2	On call or on an "as needed" basis	All departments

Other Matters, if Justification for the Reference and Procedures to be Employed are Sufficiently Demonstrated in the Circuit Court Administration Plan Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 14.

<u>Type of Other Matters</u>	<u>Location</u>
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Not Applicable.

Criminal. The following duties are referred with respect to an investigation or prosecution of an offense lying within the exclusive jurisdiction of the circuit court:

- Issue Search Warrant Pursuant to Rule 13.1
- Issue Arrest Warrant Pursuant to Rule 7.1 or A.C.A. §16-81-104
- Issue Summons Pursuant to Rule 6.1
- Reasonable Cause Determinations Pursuant to Rule 4.1 (e)
- Conduct First Appearance Pursuant to Rule 8.1
- Appoint Counsel Pursuant to Rule 8.2
- Inform Defendant Pursuant to Rule 8.3
- Accept Plea of "Not Guilty" or "Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity"
- Conduct Pretrial Release Inquiry Rules 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3
- Conduct Preliminary Hearing Pursuant to A.C.A. §16-93-307

Both judges will conduct First Appearance Rule 8.1 hearings as follows:

Randolph County - Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 10 a.m.

Lawrence County - Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 2 p.m.

Sharp County - Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8:30 a.m.

<u>Type of Matters</u>	<u>District / Division</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
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Digital Audio Recording Equipment

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 4, digital audio recording equipment is utilized to record a verbatim record of all proceedings pertaining to any contested matter before the court or jury.

and

I have provided the State District Court Digital Audio Recording Equipment Compliance Form to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Digital audio recording equipment is not currently utilized.

5. SPECIALTY COURTS.

RANDOLPH COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT
Judge Alex Bigger

A. Description of Program and How it Operates.

The Randolph County Adult Drug court program is a 24-month, post-adjudication program open to defendants with pending non-violent convictions.

B. Statutory Authority.

The adult drug court program was established pursuant to A.C.A. §16-98-301 et seq.

C. Certification.

The Circuit Judges of the Third Judicial Circuit hereby certify this specialty court program is operated in compliance with Arkansas statutes governing drug court programs, Arkansas sentencing laws and guidelines, and Arkansas statutes and rules regulating the assessment and collection of fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessments.

D. Description of Program's Use of Resources.

Adult Drug Court team members in each court consists of the presiding judge, the prosecuting attorney or designee, the public defender, the ACC probation officer, the ACC substance abuse advisor, the ACC administrative assistant, the County Sheriff or his designee, and the local Chief of Police or his designee.

E. Source of Funding.

The Randolph County Adult Drug Court is funded by the State of Arkansas and by collection-of defendants' assessed fees and court costs.

6. OTHER PROGRAMS OR DOCKETS.

Traffic and misdemeanor criminal cases arising in that portion of Fulton County, Arkansas, and within the city limits of the City of Cherokee Village, Arkansas.

The City of Cherokee Village has approximately one-half (½) of its land mass located in Sharp County, Arkansas and one-half (½) of its land mass located in the contiguous county of Fulton County, Arkansas. Fulton County is part of the Sixteenth (16th) Judicial District. Even though a large portion of the land mass of Cherokee Village is located in Fulton County, approximately only twenty percent (20%) of its population is located or reside in the Fulton County portion of Cherokee Village.

Because Cherokee Village has its own police force and for other logistical reasons, by agreement with the District Court of Fulton County, Arkansas, Honorable Chaney Taylor presiding, those misdemeanor criminal and traffic offices occurring in Cherokee Village, Fulton County, are heard in the Eleventh (11th) District State District Court, Sharp County, Dept. 2, Cherokee Village, on the 3rd Friday of each month. This exchange agreement was entered into pursuant to A.C.A. §16-17-102.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Administrative Plan is effective July 1, 2025.



Mark Johnson
District Judge
JUNE 6-2025
Date



Alexander Bigger
District Judge
6/25/25
Date