

**SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
AMENDMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN  
(effective upon approval by the Supreme Court)**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to a letter from Chief Justice Baker to Administrative Judge Melissa Richardson dated May 29, 2025, the previously approved Administrative Plan for the Second Judicial Circuit has been amended. The amended provisions are set forth herein. All provisions of the previously approved administrative plan shall remain in full force and effect except to the extent they conflict with the provisions contained in this amendment.

The Second Judicial Circuit of the State of Arkansas consists of six counties and nine courthouses. The six counties are Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Greene, Mississippi, and Poinsett. Three counties have two county seats: Craighead County with county seats in Jonesboro and Lake City; Clay County with county seats in Corning and Piggott; and Mississippi County with county seats in Blytheville and Osceola. The twelve circuit judges who have been elected to serve this area are as follows:

Judge Pamela Honeycutt	Division 1
Judge Richard Lusby	Division 2
Judge Chris Thyer	Division 3
Judge Doug Brimhall	Division 4
Judge Charles M. Mooney, Jr.	Division 5
Judge Tonya Alexander	Division 6
Judge Mary Broadaway	Division 7
Judge Kimberly Bibb	Division 8
Judge Melissa Richardson	Division 9

Judge Dan Ritchey	Division 10
Judge Randy Philhours	Division 11
Judge Scott Ellington	Division 12

## **II. ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY**

(Unchanged from previous Plan)

## **III. CASELOAD ESTIMATES**

(Unchanged from previous Plan)

## **IV. CASE ASSIGNMENT AND ALLOCATION**

### **A. DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND PROBATE DIVISIONS**

All twelve circuit judges within the Circuit will share a roughly equivalent assignment of Domestic Relations/Probate Chambers Days within the Circuit. However, all new case filings in the Domestic Relations and Probate Divisions of the circuit court of the various counties within the Second Judicial Circuit shall be assigned to the judges in all divisions. Case assignment in the Domestic Relations and Probate Divisions shall be random and in the following percentages:

Judge Pamela Honeycutt	Division 1	2%
Judge Richard Lusby	Division 2	4%
Judge Chris Thyer	Division 3	7%
Judge Doug Brimhall	Division 4	22%
Judge Charles M. Mooney, Jr.	Division 5	16%
Judge Tonya Alexander	Division 6	9%
Judge Mary Broadaway	Division 7	13%

Judge Kimberly Bibb	Division 8	11%
Judge Melissa Richardson	Division 9	2%
Judge Dan Ritchey	Division 10	13%
Judge Randy Philhours	Division 11	1%
Judge Scott Ellington	Division 12	0%

**Reopened Cases.** Once a contested Domestic Relations or Probate case has been closed by the Clerk, if the case is re-opened it shall be randomly assigned among the eleven judges and not automatically reassigned to the judge to whom the case was originally assigned. The newly assigned judge and the previously assigned judge may mutually agree to transfer the case to the previously assigned judge to further judicial economy. This decision is made to account for periodic changes in the Plan and to assure equal division of cases across all twelve divisions as required by AO 14 (3)(a)(1)(ii).

**Adult Protective Services Cases.** All adult protective services (APS) cases within Clay, Craighead, Greene, and Poinsett Counties shall be assigned to the judge in Division 8. All APS cases within Mississippi and Crittenden Counties shall be assigned to the judge in Division 12. These assignments are made for judicial economy to permit prompt and regular judicial review and to avoid unnecessary delay due to the transfer of cases.

## **B. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL DIVISIONS**

(Unchanged from previous Plan)

## **C. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, FINS, AND D-N DIVISIONS**

**Juvenile Delinquency and FINS cases.** The judges in Divisions 6, 7, and 8 shall be randomly assigned 33.3% of the Juvenile Delinquency and FINS cases across the Circuit.

**Dependency-Neglect (D-N) Cases.** The judge in Division 5 shall be assigned all D-N cases in Poinsett and Clay counties. The judge in Division 7 shall be assigned all D-N cases in Greene County. The judge in Division 8 shall

be assigned all D-N cases in Craighead County. The judge in Division 12 shall be assigned all D-N cases in Crittenden and Mississippi counties.

In order to equitably distribute the workload among the judges in this Circuit as set forth in Section III herein, each D-N case is counted as a case and one-half for purposes of equal division of cases pursuant to AO 14 (3)(a)(1)(ii) due to the number, type, and length of hearings statutorily required to be held for each such case.

#### **D. ROUTINE AND UNCONTESTED MATTERS**

(Unchanged from previous Plan)

#### **V. OTHER PROVISIONS**

(Unchanged from previous Plan)

#### **VI. SPECIALTY COURTS OR PROGRAMS**

(Unchanged from previous Plan)

#### **VII. STATE DISTRICT JUDGES**

(Unchanged from previous Plan)

#### **VIII. CONCLUSION**

The judges of the Second Judicial Circuit submit that this Amended Plan provides an efficient method for the administration of justice in this Circuit, taking into consideration the size of the Circuit, the number of courthouses, speedy trial considerations in criminal cases, the need to provide numerous opportunities in each county for judges assigned to hear cases in that courthouse, Administrative

Order No. 14 as amended, and Chief Justice Baker's directive.

Dated this 24 day of June, 2025.

  
HON. PAM HONEYCUTT

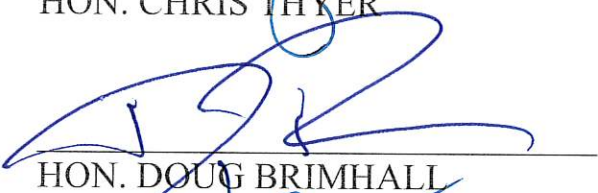
  
HON. MARY BROADAWAY

  
HON. RICHARD LUSBY

  
HON. KIMBERLY BIBB


  
HON. CHRIS THYER

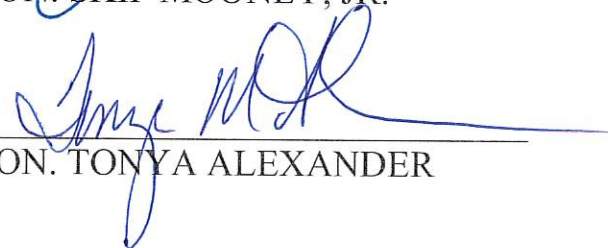
  
HON. MELISSA RICHARDSON

  
HON. DOUG BRIMHALL

  
HON. DAN RITCHEY

  
HON. SKIP MOONEY, JR.

  
HON. RANDY PHILHOURS

  
HON. TONYA ALEXANDER

  
HON. SCOTT ELLINGTON