

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. A-2022-20-A

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER MODIFYING CERTAIN CIRCUIT
JUDGE ASSIGNMENTS WITHIN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Article V, Section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, and Section 43.26, Florida Statutes, the Chief Judge of each judicial circuit is charged with the authority and the power to do everything necessary to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, Florida Rule of General Practice Rule & Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(3) states the Chief Judge "shall, considering available resources, ensure the efficient and proper administration of all courts within this circuit." Further, the Chief Judge is tasked to develop, *inter alia*, an administrative organization capable of effecting the prompt disposition of cases, control of dockets, and the assignment of judges; and

WHEREAS, Florida Rule of General Practice Rule & Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(4) mandates the Chief Judge "shall assign judges to the courts and divisions, and shall determine the length of each assignment;" and

WHEREAS, allocation of judicial resources within the circuit to ensure efficient and proper administration of all courts must be made in such a way to ensure that cases throughout the circuit receive due attention, and that proportionate and manageable judicial caseloads are maintained.

DBM

IT IS THEREFORE,

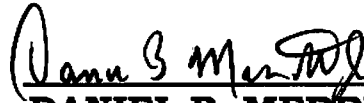
ORDERED and **ADJUDGED** administratively as follows:

1. **THE HONORABLE JASON NIMETH, Circuit Judge**, is hereby assigned full-time to Lake County **commencing October 2, 2023**.
2. **THE HONORABLE KRISTI HEALIS, Circuit Judge**, is assigned to and headquartered in Citrus County. **Commencing October 2, 2023**, her duties shall be divided equally between Citrus and Sumter Counties generally on a 3 day, 2 day rotating basis as her determines to equally proportion his duties commensurate with resolution of responsibilities within said respective counties. Hearings shall be conducted in Sumter County in accordance and in compliance with Florida Law, Supreme Court Administrative Order, Rule of Procedure, and evolving modern technology and practices. Hearings shall be held remotely whenever reasonably possible and in the manner best applicable, based upon the issue(s) to be resolved and in the discretion of the Court. Hearings shall be held in Sumter County in-person when the matter to be heard is such that it is more reasonable, appropriate, and efficient for the Court, witnesses, and parties, as the Court may in its discretion determine based upon the complexity of the legal and/or factual issues, number of witnesses and/or parties, evidentiary issues, number of exhibits, and such other matters as the Court may consider.
3. The division(s) and docket(s) to be assigned to Judge Healys and Judge Nimeth within the respective indicated counties shall be based upon judicial need and made through consultation and agreement of the Administrative Judges of Citrus and Sumter Counties with any input as may be requested of the Chief Judge. In the unanticipated event of a failure to meet such agreement within the respective affected counties, the Chief Judge shall make such determination in his discretion.

DM

4. This Order shall be effective *nunc pro tunc* October 2, 2023.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers in Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida, this 7th day of June, 2024.



DANIEL B. MERRITT, JR
CHIEF JUDGE
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT