

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



Contexte Judge Assignment & Administrative Plans

Presented By Gloria Thompson, Diane Robinson



Goals

- Process & Timeline
- How judge assignments work
- How it feeds into case statistics for judges
- Questions to ask



What is your role?

- Judge
- Clerk or clerk staff
- TCA
- Other



Timeline (A014)

- In odd numbered years:
 - July 1: Plans due to the Supreme Court
 - Fall: Supreme Court reviews the plan
 - December: Clerks get a hard copy of the approved plan in the mail
 - Must be available for public view
- January 1 (even numbered years): plans go into effect



How judge assignment works

- AOC staff (Gloria & Lars) review the plans
- Translate text into judge assignment rules
- Lars' team does configuration in non-prod environment and does QA
- Move it into prod and QA
- Rules take effect in prod on January 1



Example

In the Western District of Craighead County, all criminal cases shall be assigned to judges elected to Divisions 1, 4, 6 and 11. All cases referred to drug court for disposition shall then be reassigned to the judge elected to Division 9. All civil cases filed in this district shall be assigned to judges elected to Division 2, 8 and 9.

Dependency-Neglect Cases. The Division 4 Circuit Judge shall be randomly assigned 60% of the Craighead County Dependency-Neglect cases [which is 22% of the D-N cases in the Second Judicial Circuit]. The Division 5 Circuit Judge shall be assigned 100% of the Crittenden County Dependency-Neglect cases, 100% of the Mississippi County (Chickasawba and Osceola Districts) Dependency-Neglect cases, and 100% of the Poinsett County Dependency-Neglect cases, [which is 34% of the D-N cases in the Second Judicial Circuit]. The Division 7 Circuit Judge shall be assigned 100% of the Greene County Dependency-Neglect cases, [which is 25% of the D-N cases in the Second Judicial Circuit]. The Division 9 Circuit Judge shall be randomly assigned 40% of the Craighead County Dependency-Neglect cases and 100% of the Clay County Eastern and Western Districts) Dependency-Neglect cases, [which is 19% of the D-N cases in the Second Judicial Circuit].

C) All Eleven (11) Circuit Judges shall be randomly assigned all Criminal and Civil Division cases as described in subsection IV. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ASSIGNMENTS. The Circuit Judges elected to Divisions 4, 5, 7 and 9 shall have a reduced Criminal and Civil Division caseload because of their Dependency-Neglect caseload.

Clay County Corning (West)

Division	Judge Name	CV	CR	DR	JV	PR
1 st	Hon. Pam Honeycutt		25%	9.5%		9.5%
2 nd	Hon. Richard Lusby	33%		11.5%		11.5%
3 rd	Hon. Brent Davis			13.30%		13.30%
4 th	Hon. Cindy Thyer		25%	3.60%		3.60%
5 th	Hon. Ralph Wilson, Jr.			11.8%		11.8%
6 th	Hon. Tonya Alexander		25%	10%		10%
7 th	Hon. Barbara Halsey			3.40%		3.40%
8 ^h	Hon. John Fogleman	33%		8.80%		8.80%
9 th	Hon. Melissa Bristow Richardson	33%		10.30%		10.30%
10 th	Hon. Dan Ritchey			10.60%		10.60%
11 th	Hon. Randy Philhours		25%	7.20%		7.20%
TOTALS		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



Judge Assignment methods

Type	Description	Notes
Weighted Random	System selects an ID at random out of the judge pool until the pool is depleted for all judges	Useful when judges get different percentages of cases. One judge may get several in a row Example: div 1 40%; div 2 40%; div 3 20%; pool size of 20 12321111321332221221 33332222222211111111
Random Round Robin	System rotationally selects an ID from the judge pool. Selection restarts once each ID has been selected	Only works for equal percentages 123 312 321 213 231 312
Random	Truly random	Not used by any Arkansas courts
None	Manual assignment	Used by paper-reporting courts and courts entering only statistical data



Limitations – what we can't do!

- Assign based on day
- Assign based on charge code or charge level
- Assign based on a case type that isn't a Contexte case type (example: uncontested divorce)
- Assign based on previous judge
- Assign based on percentages
 - 7.2% difficult to accommodate!



How do we translate percentages?

- Out of every ## cases, each judge gets certain number over the course of the pool
- Have to have a pool large enough to translate.
- If it's 13%, need at least 100 assignments in the pool
 - The judge gets 13 of those assignments
- If it's 13.3%, need at least 1000 assignments in the pool
 - The judge gets 133 of those assignments
- Larger pool: risk it won't be fully used
 - One judge might get too many or too few assignments by the end of the year



How the plan affects case statistics

- Monthly reports
 - Cases filed comes directly from those assignments
- Note for TCAs
 - Monthly reports are a way to check if assignments are happening as they should be
 - Will be variation month-to-month



District Court Judges Hearing Circuit Court cases

- Need Judge ID in Contexte, even if not a Contexte court
- Who gets credit?
- Challenge: what if it's not assigned to a particular district court judge?



Contexte Judge Assignment & Administrative Plans

Annual Report

	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
Division 1	46%	43%	5%	0%	5%	
Division 2	19%	34%	5%	0%	8%	
Division 3	16%	10%	10%	0%	31%	St. Francis County Adult Drug Court
Division 4	17%	12%	16%	0%	49%	
Division 5	2%	1%	64%	100%	7%	St. Francis County & Cross County Juvenile Drug Courts
District Court	Uncontested debt collection, real estate foreclosure, garnishment, orders of dismissal		St. Francis County agreed orders or modifications, temporary orders of protection, OCSE Show Cause		St. Francis county agreed post-guardianship orders, PC hearings in commitment cases	
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	



Annual Report

	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
Division 1			9.5%		9.5%	
Clay	ED 50%	ED 50%	9.5%		9.5%	
Craighead		WD 25%				
Crittenden	33%					
Greene						
Mississippi						
Poinsett		33%				
Division 2						
Clay			11.5%	Delinquency & FINS 25%	11.5%	Juvenile Drug Court
Craighead	WD 33%					
Crittenden	33%					
Greene	50%					
Mississippi	Chickasawba 50%					
Poinsett						



Your role in the administrative plan

- Are you involved? If so, how?
- Clerks: do you receive a copy of the plan?
- What challenges do you have with a new plan?
- What do you do if you have a question about the plan?



Questions to ask

- Does this administrative plan affect already-assigned cases?
- If old cases are split between different judges, how is that done?
- How should transfers of old cases be done?
 - Affects the pool (Transfer in Nav frame)
 - Doesn't affect the pool (CDACASN)
- **ALWAYS** test a mass transfer in Courts



Questions?

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Where do I go next?

- Main Room: Closing Session