



SEBASTIAN COUNTY COURTS BUILDING
901 SOUTH "B" STREET
FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS 72901
TELEPHONE: (479) 782-4715
FACSIMILE: (479) 784-1527

STEPHEN TABOR
CIRCUIT JUDGE - DIVISION I
TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DEBI PETERS
CERTIFIED COURT MANAGER
LAURENCE MARTIN
COURT REPORTER

November 18, 2020

Honorable John Dan Kemp
Chief Justice, Arkansas Supreme Court
625 Marshall Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Amendment to Administrative Plan

Dear Chief Justice Kemp:

In 2019 the 12th Judicial District was provided an additional circuit judge effective July 1. In anticipation of that new judge we amended our then existing plan in a rather hurried fashion with the intention of balancing the respective workloads of each judge. Having worked under that plan for over a year we have determined that perhaps we had not established the most effective plan and that a workload imbalance currently exists, with relief needed most prominently in the area of domestic relations cases. In addition, because of the mandatory retirement of two of our judges we have attempted to modify our plan to not only address the workload imbalance but also to take advantage of the expertise of our incoming judges. With that in mind I write requesting to amend our Administrative Plan as follows:

DIVISION I (Judge Stephen Tabor)

50% of all Criminal cases, 50% of all Petitions to Revoke, 100% of Drug Court and 100% of Veterans Treatment Court

DIVISION II (Judge Annie Powell-Hendricks)

33% of all Domestic Relations cases, 33% of all Probate cases, 25% of all Juvenile Dependency Neglect cases and 100% Mental Health Court (assuming the establishment of the court is approved)

DIVISION III (Judge Shannon Blatt)

34% of all Domestic Relations cases, 34% of all Probate cases, and 25% of all Juvenile Dependency Neglect cases. Judge Blatt has also been the recipient of a grant and is in the process of establishing a "Safe Babies" Court. That program will require additional time in the performance of Judge Blatt's duties.

DIVISION IV (Judge Leigh Zuerker)

100% of all Juvenile Delinquency cases; 100% of all Family in Need of Services cases and, 25% all Juvenile Dependency Neglect cases

DIVISION V (Judge Gunner Delay)

50% of all Criminal cases, 50% of all Petitions to Revoke, and 20% of all Civil cases

DIVISION VI (Judge Greg Magness)

50% of all Civil cases, and 33% of all Probate cases

DIVISION VII (Judge Dianna Hewitt-Ladd)

30% of all Civil cases, 33% of all Domestic Relations cases, and 25% of all Juvenile Dependency Neglect cases

This plan has been approved unanimously by the judges who will be in office January 1, 2021, which is the proposed effective date of this Amendment. We very much appreciate your consideration of this Amendment and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Stephen Tabor
Circuit Judge

ST:djp