

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN
FOR
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT NORTH

Pursuant to "Administrative Order Number 14" of the Supreme Court of Arkansas, the Judges of the Eighth Judicial District North adopt the following administrative plan.

1.

The Eighth Judicial District North consists of two Circuit Judges, namely, Wm. Randal Wright and Duncan M. Culpepper.

2.

The Eighth Judicial District North shall be divided into two divisions as follows:

DIVISION 1	Wm. Randal Wright
DIVISION 2	Duncan M. Culpepper

3.

Any decision relating to Amendment 80 of the Arkansas Constitution, and to Arkansas Supreme Administrative Order 14, delivered April 6, 2001, and subsequent Orders and Per Curiam opinions, or division of cases in this District shall be by unanimous vote of all Circuit Judges in the District. In the event a unanimous vote of all Judges in the District cannot be reached on any matter, then such matter shall be submitted to the Arkansas Supreme Court for final resolution.

At the time a matter is submitted to the Arkansas Supreme Court for final resolution, all Judges of the District shall submit in writing, the matter in dispute with the reasons each Judge believes a matter should be decided in a specific manner.

4.

All Circuit Court Judges within the District shall, at all times, have the authority and affirmative duty to hear all matters within the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court regardless of the designation of divisions. Scheduling of all cases for Court shall be made by the parties involved in any case through the Trial Court Assistants of the Circuit Judges.

5.

For the purposes of Judicial Administration and Caseload Management, the following subject matter divisions in each county (Hempstead/Nevada) in the District are established:

- A. Criminal
- B. Civil
- C. Domestic
- D. Probate
- E. Juvenile.

The establishment of these divisions shall in no way limit the power and duties of any Circuit Judge in the District. Further, no Judge is excluded from hearing any case in any subject matter division which may come before him.

6.

This plan has been designed by considering special circumstances within the Judicial District and the individual experience and expertise of all Judges.

In considering all circumstances and the individual experiences of the Judges in this circuit, the division of all new cases filed in the Eighth Judicial District North,

subject to the conditions set for herein, are to be divided as follows:

DIVISION 1

<u>Wm. Randal Wright</u>	<u>Percent of Cases</u>
A. Criminal	50
B. Civil	50
C. Domestic	50
D. Probate	50
E. Juvenile	100 Dependent Neglect

DIVISION 2

<u>Duncan M. Culpepper</u>	<u>Percent of Cases</u>
A. Criminal	50
B. Civil	50
C. Domestic	50
D. Probate	50
E. Juvenile	100 Delinquent and Fins

The Clerk of each subject matter division shall randomly assign all cases to the Judges of the District in the manner set forth above.

8.

SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAMS

A. JUVENILE DRUG COURT - The Eighth North Juvenile Drug Court has been in operation since January 1, 2012. Court sessions are conducted in Hempstead County for both Hempstead and Nevada Counties. The program admits post-adjudicated juveniles who are having problems with drug usage. The juveniles are screened by the Juvenile Drug Court Probation Officer and recommended to the Juvenile Drug Court team comprised of the Juvenile Intake Officer, Drug Court Treatment Specialist, Public Defender, Prosecuting Attorney and Circuit Judge Wm. Randal Wright. However, Circuit Judge Duncan Culpepper may hear Juvenile Drug Court cases at any time.

B. ADULT DRUG COURT - The Eighth North Adult Drug Court has been in operation since the year 2001. Court sessions are conducted in Hempstead County for both Hempstead and Nevada Counties. The program utilizes a pre-adjudication and post-adjudication process and is open to defendants who have committed eligible offenses. The Drug Court team consists of the Prosecuting Attorney, Department of Community Correction's Officer, Department of Community Correction's Counselor, Public Defender, Law Enforcement Representative and Circuit Judge Duncan Culpepper. However, Circuit Judge Wm. Randal Wright may hear Adult Drug Court cases at any time. The Drug Court team meets monthly to consider those eligible for Adult Drug Court. The program is conducted in conformance with Arkansas Code Annon. §16-98-30, et seq., and complies with applicable laws involving the assessment of fines, fees, court costs and probation supervision fees. This program is funded by the Department of Community Correction.

C. SWIFT COURT - The Eighth North Judicial District has operated a "SWIFT Court" since October 1, 2012, under the authority of the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Supreme Court (ACA 16-93-1701, et seq.) The program primarily reviews eligible candidates from those under probation with significant problems that would cause a revocation petition and hearing possibly placing said defendant in the Department of Correction. The program is conducted in conformance with the training sessions of the federally funded Hope Court located in Saline County and approved by the Arkansas Supreme Court. The program complies with applicable laws involving the assessment of fines, fees, court costs and probation supervision fees. The program utilizes staff and funding from the Department of Community Correction. The members of the SWIFT Court team include the Prosecuting Attorney, Public Defender, Department

of Community Correction Probation Officer dedicated to SWIFT Court and Circuit Judge Wm. Randal Wright. However, Circuit Judge Duncan Culpepper may hear SWIFT Court Cases at any time.

9.

Any case, including Juvenile Cases, in which any Judge in the District is unavailable may be heard by the available Judge without the necessity of a specific Exchange Order being submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

A. This practice has been followed by the Judges in our District in the past for all types of cases, including Juvenile, resulting in an almost equal division of cases between Judges and the prompt, efficient disposition of cases in the District.

B. The above practice has also resulted in the prompt and satisfactory disposition of cases for litigants as well as attorneys.

The assignment of cases in the above manner will prevent a workload imbalance between the Judges of the District. Further, while each division of the types of cases between the Judges is not equal, the case load between the Judges will be almost equal. After the next general election, the elected Judges will submit a new Administrative Plan to the Arkansas Supreme Court pursuant to "Administrative Order Number 14" and any supplemental orders which may be entered.

10.

In the event that one of the Judges in the District recuse on a case, the case will be assigned to the other Judge in the District. Should both Judges in the District recuse, then the last Judge recusing will attempt to find a Judge in the adjoining Districts to hear the case on exchange. If both Judges in this District cannot hear the case and no Judge in the

adjoining District is available to hear the case on exchange, then the Supreme Court of Arkansas will be requested to assign a Judge to hear the case.

11.


District Judge Duties Concurrent with Circuit Court - The District Judge shall have the following concurrent duties within the Eighth North (8N) Judicial District:

- (1) Criminal First Appearances,
- (2) Search Warrants Pursuant to rule 7.1,
- (3) Arrest Warrants Pursuant to 13.1,
- (4) Pro-se Uncontested Divorces,
- (5) Civil, Domestic Relations and Probate Cases upon the consent
of all parties pursuant to Administrative Order No. 18(d), and
- (6) Ex Parte Orders of Protection.


The Administrative Plan is unanimously adopted by the undersigned this the 9th day of April, 2019.



WM. RANDAL WRIGHT
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
Eighth Judicial District North, Division 1



DUNCAN M. CULPEPPER
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
Eighth Judicial District North, Division 2



TONY YOCOM
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
Eighth Judicial District North,
Hempstead and Nevada Counties