

**Sixth Judicial Circuit  
Case Assignment Plan, Effective January 1, 2022**

1. **Goal of the Plan:** Pursuant to Administrative Order Number 14, as amended, the judges of the Sixth Judicial Circuit have agreed to a Case Assignment Plan that will maximize the resources of Pulaski and Perry Counties while equitably dividing the caseload among the seventeen (17) circuit judges. The Plan takes into consideration various factors, including, but not limited to the current caseload assignment, the location of the facilities, the number of courtrooms suitable for jury trials, and the desire of each individual judge regarding case assignment.

By presenting this Plan to the Arkansas Supreme Court, the judges of the Sixth Judicial Circuit recognize that the Plan is a compromise of many factors and that the goal is to serve best the citizens of Pulaski and Perry Counties. Changes in the Plan may be made depending on changed circumstances during the effective term of the Plan. Any change will be presented for approval of the Arkansas Supreme Court before implementation.

2. **Effective Dates:** This Plan shall be enacted for the period between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2023. The Plan shall remain in effect during that period unless otherwise modified and shall continue until the Arkansas Supreme Court has approved another Plan.

3. **Voting:** Pursuant to the Per Curiam Opinion delivered January 30, 2003, a majority of the circuit judges in the judicial district shall be sufficient to adopt a plan. In the Sixth Judicial Circuit, there are seventeen (17) circuit judges; therefore, nine (9) votes are required to adopt a plan, and any modifications thereafter.

4. **Administrative Plan:** All cases are to be apportioned among the circuit judges as equally as possible by random selection, and cases may be reassigned as necessity requires. A circuit judge to whom a case is assigned shall accept that case unless he or she is disqualified, or the interests of justice require that the case not be heard by that judge.

**Pulaski County Caseload Plan:**

- a. Pulaski County Average Caseload. Using year end 2020 case filing figures, the total number of cases filed in Pulaski County was 19,403, a decrease of 3,960 cases below the figures used in the 2020 Plan. The caseload of each circuit judge, if divided equally between the seventeen (17) judges, would be approximately 1,141 for calendar year 2022. The circuit judges acknowledge that since the juvenile courtrooms are located separate from the Pulaski County Courthouse, the logistics require a deviation from the concept of equal case filings for each judge. The judges will continue the pre-diversion program

in juvenile court and have the responsibility of monitoring the participants. The judges will also participate in the rotation for hearing mental health cases.

The case filings as of April 2021 from the Pulaski Circuit Clerk indicate an increase in filings could increase substantially over year end 2020 filings. These new filings are not included in this Case Assignment Plan, but if the trend continues, an Amended Case Assignment Plan may be submitted for consideration at the end of 2021.

- b. The Circuit Judges and the eight (8) State District Judges, as of January 1, 2020, have agreed that pursuant to Administrative Orders 14 and 18, the State District Judges will hear a category, or categories, of cases referred to them by the circuit court as will be described in more detail below. It is estimated that approximately 1800 to 2400, hearings are set each year for the State District Judges but with hearings canceled for lack of service or the entry of agreed orders, the actual number of hearings held is substantially less. The Circuit Judge continues to have jurisdiction of the case for other issues.

The judges of the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit have noticed a trend since 2008 of the numbers of cases filed and the increase/decrease of filings in certain subject matters. As a result of these trends, it is necessary for the judges to monitor the filings periodically to ensure that each judge is receiving a fair and proportionate number of cases each year.

- c. Breakdown of Subject-Matter Divisions:

<b>Case Type:</b>	<b>Number of Cases:</b>
	<u>Using Year End 2020 figures</u>
Criminal	4,597
Civil	7,454
Domestic	3,986
Juvenile	852
Probate	2,514
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,403</b>

- d. For calendar year 2022, these judges will hear the following type cases in Pulaski County:

1. Judges Byrd and Shanice Johnson will share in the juvenile caseload.
2. Judges Johnson, Griffen, Sims and Compton will share in the criminal caseload; pursuant to the Per Curiam Opinion delivered by the Arkansas Supreme Court on April 17, 2017, Judge Griffen

in the Fifth Division Circuit, will not hear, or be assigned, cases that involve the death penalty or the state's execution protocol, whether civil or criminal.

3. Griffen, Fox, Gray, Pierce, Wright, Welch and James will share in the civil caseload.

4. Reif, James, Shawn Johnson, Amy Johnson, Tucker, and Gill will share in the domestic relations caseload.

5. Reif, Shawn Johnson, Amy Johnson, Tucker and Gill will share in the probate caseload including the case distribution at Mental Health Court; in addition, Leon Johnson, and Compton will participate in the rotation of hearings at Mental Health Court.

e. The division of cases is listed below. The numbers of cases listed are approximations because the filings will vary from year to year.

<b>Div.</b>	<b>Judge</b>	<b>Percentage (No. of cases)</b>	<b>Total</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	L. Johnson	29% criminal (1333)	1333
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tucker	18.8% dom (749); 20% prob (503)	1252
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Compton	29% criminal (1333)	1333
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wright	16% civil (1193)	1193
5 <sup>th</sup>	Griffen	13% criminal (597); 9% civil (670)	1267
6 <sup>th</sup>	Fox	16% civil (1193)	1193
7 <sup>th</sup>	Sims	29% criminal (1333)	1333
8 <sup>th</sup>	Byrd	50% juvenile (426)	426
9 <sup>th</sup>	Gill	18.8% dom (897); 20% prob (502)	1252
10 <sup>th</sup>	Shanice Johnson	50% juvenile (426)	426
11 <sup>th</sup>	James	Drug Ct (100); 11% civil (819); 6% dom (239)	1158
12 <sup>th</sup>	Gray	16% civil (1193)	1193
13 <sup>th</sup>	Reif	18.8% dom (749); 20% prob (503)	1252
14 <sup>th</sup>	Shawn Johnson	18.8% dom (749); 20% prob (503)	1252
15 <sup>th</sup>	Amy Johnson	18.8% dom (749); 20% prob (503)	1252
16 <sup>th</sup>	Welch	16% civil (1193)	1193
17 <sup>th</sup>	Pierce	16% civil (1193)	1193

- The above figures do not include the truancy cases and the dependency neglect classes assigned to Judges Byrd and Shanice Johnson. Judge Byrd has 170 FINS cases, 142 Truancy cases, 1 EJJ case and 438 Dependent Neglect cases. Judge Shanice Johnson has 28 FINS cases, 373 FINS Truancy cases, 1EJJ case, 19 Safe Babies and 418 Dependent Neglect cases. In addition, the above figures do not represent the juvenile guardian, juvenile adoption and informal diversion cases to which the judges are responsible.
- The above figures do not include the people who absconded or who are in treatment assigned to Judge James.

This Plan is made with the specific understanding that pursuant to Administrative Order No. 14, a new plan will have to be submitted to the Arkansas Supreme Court after each election. The judges agree that this

Plan will not create a precedent as to how cases are assigned in the future. The judges also recognize that it is likely that the number of cases in each subject matter may increase or decrease over the next year or two and that modifications may be required.

f. Use of Courtrooms and Jury Pools. Since not all judges have courtrooms that are suitable for jury trials, those judges lacking such a courtroom shall contact a circuit judge who does have a courtroom suitable for a jury trial. The judges shall coordinate the setting of jury trials, the sharing of jury pools, and resolve any other issues that arise that will facilitate the setting of jury trials. A request for a jury trial by one of the judges will take precedence over any non-jury matter for that day. Any judge hearing juvenile cases and in need of courtroom facilities for a jury trial shall contact any of the judges at the Pulaski County Courthouse to arrange for the use of their courtroom and jury pool. The courtrooms of Judge Chip Welch, Judge Mackie Pierce and Judge Alice Gray on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Pulaski County Courthouse are available for jury trials.

**Perry County Caseload Plan:**

a. In 2020, there were a total of 341 cases filed in Perry County:

Criminal	73
Civil	109
Domestic	93
Juvenile	11
Probate	55

- b. The Circuit Clerk of Perry County will assign each new case to one of the participating circuit judges to assure that each judge will have substantially the same number of cases as other judges hearing the same case type to which they are assigned. The assigned judge is responsible for the case file; however, by agreement of the circuit judges, nothing shall preclude any other circuit judge from hearing all routine and uncontested matters irrespective to which judge the case is assigned.
- c. The circuit judges hearing criminal cases in Perry County in calendar year 2022 will each have a pre-trial day and then a trial day approximately two (2) weeks later, if necessary. Judges Gill, Compton will hear criminal cases in Perry County on a rotating basis.
- d. Those circuit judges doing non-criminal cases in Perry County in 2022 shall be Judges Pierce, Wright, Welch, Gray, Reif, Shawn Johnson, and Gill. Judges Wright, Welch, and Pierce will hear civil and probate cases in Perry County in 2022.

- e. Pursuant to the Per Curiam Opinion delivered by the Supreme Court of Arkansas on April 17, 2017, Judge Griffen shall not hear, or be assigned, cases that involve the death penalty or the state's execution protocol, whether civil or criminal.
- f. Those circuit judges hearing juvenile cases in Perry County in 2022 will be Judges Byrd and Shanice Johnson.
- g. The Judges of the Sixth Judicial District are committed to maintaining a physical presence in Perry County.

5. **Drug Court and Veterans' Treatment Court:** The Sixth Judicial Circuit's Drug Court program has been in operation since 1994; the Veteran's Court has been in operation since December 2011. Judge James presides over all Drug Court and Veteran's Court cases. Judge Gill will serve as the back-up Judge when Judge James is unable to preside. The program is a post adjudication process and has been since early 1998. Prior to that time, it was a pre-adjudication process.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT DRUG COURT PROGRAM**

A. **Description of Program and How it is Operated.** The 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Drug Court (PAC) is a post-adjudication program. Participants are given a 36-month probation period. It is designed to be an 18-month program. Participants must have a dependency on drugs or alcohol and there is no requirement they be charged with a drug offense to be eligible. The individual must be eligible for CCC/RPF thus, they cannot have a prior or pending violent felonies or sex crime. Upon graduation, the probation is terminated, and the participant is immediately eligible for expungement.

#### **PAC ADMISSION PROCESS**

The participant must be identified as high risk/high needs and clinically appropriate for the program. The defense attorney will submit a referral the Prosecuting Attorney. After the request is submitted, the Prosecutor will review the pending charges and criminal history. If deemed appropriate for further review, the participant will be scheduled for assessment through the Arkansas Community of Corrections.

One assessment will be administered by a probation officer to determine the participant's risk and needs. Another assessment will be administered by a drug/alcohol advisor to determine clinical appropriateness for the program. Entry into PAC is usually limited to those who are determined as high risk/high needs and meet criteria for substance use disorder.

After the completion of these assessments, the probation officer and drug/alcohol advisor will share the information with the Drug Court team for final review. If the request is approved by the Drug Court team, the participant will complete a conditional plea statement in the originating court and be provided a date for acceptance of plea and sentencing before the PAC Judge. Prior to this court date, the participant makes an appointment with the defense attorney to complete all necessary forms.

A hearing will be set to be formally accepted into Drug Court.

B. **Statutory or Legal Authority.** A.C.A. §16-98-301 et. seq

C. **Certification.** The program conforms to all applicable sentencing laws, including fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessment.

D. **Description of the Program's Use of Court Resources.** Team members include, the circuit judge, court staff, treatment providers counselors from ACC, public defenders, Clinical supervisor, Law Enforcement liaison, Mentors, Prosecutors, and probation officers. Team members participate in staffing and in hearings to ensure that all available resources are used in a timely manner to meet individualized needs. Treatment is provided by a contract agency through the Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health Division.

E. **Source of Funding for Program.** PAC is funded by monthly fees paid by each participant. Drug treatment is paid for by the Arkansas Community Correction. Administrative Office of the Courts assists with payment for transitional housing.

## **6<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT VETERANS' COURT PROGRAM**

A. **Description of Program and How it is Operated.** The 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Veterans' Court (VTC) is a post-adjudication program that serves Veteran's with a dependency on drugs or alcohol. For VTC, an individual can be eligible with only a mental illness. They must be eligible for Veterans Administration (VA) benefits, and it helps if the veteran is eligible for CCC/RPF. Since CCC/RPF is not a requirement, veterans with violent charges or violent priors are accepted into the program.

### **VTC ADMISSION PROCESS**

The participant may request a referral to VTC through their defense attorney, which will then be submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. At this time, you will need to notify your defense attorney that you are a veteran and eligible for treatment at the VA. The Veteran Treatment Court Liaison can provide you a letter stating you are eligible for services at the VA. After the request is submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Prosecutor will review your pending charges and criminal history. If the Prosecuting Attorney determines that your request should be considered for further review, you will be scheduled for assessment through Arkansas Community Corrections (ACC).

One assessment will be administered by a probation officer to determine your risk and needs. Another assessment will be administered by a drug/alcohol advisor to determine clinical appropriateness for the program. Entry into Drug/Veteran Treatment Court is usually limited to those who are determined as high risk/high needs and meet criteria for substance use disorder. After the completion of these assessments, the

probation officer and drug/alcohol advisor will share this information with the Drug/Veteran Treatment Court team for a final review.

If the request is approved by the Drug/Veteran Treatment Court team, you will complete in the originating court a conditional plea statement in the originating court and be provided a date for acceptance of plea and sentencing before the Drug/Veteran Treatment Court Judge. Prior to this court date, you must make an appointment with your defense attorney to complete all necessary forms. The participant will appear at a hearing before the Drug/Veteran Treatment Court Judge to be formally accepted into Drug/Veteran Treatment Court.

B. **Statutory or Legal Authority.** A.C.A. §16-101-102 et. seq

C. **Certification.** The program conforms to all applicable sentencing laws, including fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessment.

D. **Description of the Program's Use of Court Resources.** Team members include, the circuit judge, judicial staff, probation officers, VA Liaison and Vet's Judicial Outreach Officer(s). Team members participate in meetings and in hearings to ensure that all available resources are used in a timely manner to meet the needs of the veterans.

E. **Source of Funding for Program.** VTC is funded by monthly fees assessed to each of the participants. Also, the cost of treatment is covered by the VA Hospital.

6. **Meetings for Judges:** The Administrative Judge shall establish regular meetings for all circuit judges of at least quarterly, or often, as is necessary. If at least three (3) circuit judges request a special meeting, the Administrative Judge shall promptly call a meeting for all circuit judges.

7. **Election of Administrative Judge:** An election for Administrative Judge was held on November 23, 2020. Judge Leon Johnson was elected Administrative Judge by secret ballot by a vote of 14-0 vote. Judge Leon Johnson will serve as the Administrative Judge until such time as the next election is required to be conducted in accordance with Administrative Order No. 14.

8. **Reassignment of subject matter:** The issue of burn-out was first raised by the Arkansas Supreme Court in a per curiam opinion several years ago. The Court recognized that a judge assigned to a particular subject matter may, in time, request an assignment to hear other type subject matters of cases other than those currently assigned to that judge.

As is true in the current Case Assignment Plan for 2020, several judges have requested a different mix of cases such as an increase in civil cases, a decrease in domestic relations cases and a request to not hear criminal cases. Amendment 80 gives the judicial circuits the luxury of modifying its case assignment plans to accommodate these requests.

Because of the configuration of having a main courthouse housing fifteen (15) judges in the downtown Little Rock area and a juvenile courthouse housing two (2) judges on Roosevelt Road in Little Rock hearing exclusively juvenile matters, it is difficult to conveniently modify the case assignment plan to accommodate a desire of one or more of the judges hearing juvenile matters to hear other type cases.

To remedy the situation and to address the issue of burn-out of all judges, as a vacancy occurs in one or more of the seventeen (17) divisions of circuit court, the use of seniority will be utilized to allow a sitting circuit judge to relocate his/her division of court into the facilities of the vacant judicial division and to assume all or part of the case type currently assigned that division as long as it is consistent with the current Case Assignment Plan. The most senior judge would have the first option to elect to fill the vacancy. The next senior judge would then have the option to relocate, and so on. All subsequent vacancies created by this relocation would then be filled in a like manner using seniority. No sitting judge could be removed from his/her existing caseload or chambers using this process. No judge would change division designation or vacate the sub-district designation assigned to that division of court because they elected to relocate to another courtroom and chambers space.

A “vacancy” occurs when a sitting circuit judge leaves the bench because of retirement, removal, death or loss of re-election and the vacancy is filled by election. A “vacancy” does not occur when the Governor appoints a person to fill the vacant judicial position.

[By way of example only, if 14<sup>th</sup> Division Circuit Court becomes vacant because of resignation, removal or death of the sitting judge and if the Governor appoints a person to fill 14<sup>th</sup> Division, there would not be a vacancy which would allow a sitting judge to move to the courtroom and chambers of 14<sup>th</sup> Division at that time because the vacancy would be filled by appointment. If, however, an election occurs to fill 14<sup>th</sup> Division, a sitting judge could decide to move his/her division of court to 14<sup>th</sup> Division using seniority. If the 7<sup>th</sup> Division Circuit Judge elects to relocate to the 14<sup>th</sup> Division courtroom and chambers, then the 7<sup>th</sup> Division Circuit Judge will remain 7<sup>th</sup> Division as that is the division of court to which he/she was elected. The 7<sup>th</sup> Division Circuit Judge would simply move to the new courtroom facilities. The 14<sup>th</sup> Division would then relocate to another courtroom and chambers in the Pulaski County Courthouse or to the Juvenile Court Building on Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, Arkansas based on seniority.]

If more than one judge wants to relocate after an election has occurred, the use of seniority will dictate the order in which the relocation process shall take place.

The relocating judge must make the decision to relocate to the vacancy by notifying the administrative judge and the newly elected judge at least thirty (30) days after the general election for judges in either the spring election, special election or in November, depending on whether there is a run-off or not for that judgeship.



9. **State District Court Judges:** Pursuant to Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 18, section 6, and legislation passed in the 2011 legislative session, eight (8) District Judges in Pulaski County were made State District Judges as of January 1, 2017. The Judges, as of January 1, 2021, will be Judge Wayne Gruber, Judge Rita Bailey, Judge Randy Morley, Judge Milas H. “Butch” Hale, III, Judge Paula Juels Jones, Judge Melanie Martin, Judge Mark Leverett and Judge Vic Fleming.

The State District Judges are authorized to hear certain cases that have been referred to them by the Circuit Judges of Pulaski County, Arkansas or cases which have been transferred to them by consent, pursuant to Administrative Order No. 18.

**PARTICIPATING STATE DISTRICT JUDGES**

NAME	DISTRICT COURT	ASSINGMENT/ALLOCATION OF CASES
MILAS HALE	SHERWOOD	12.5%
RITA BAILEY	JACKSONVILLE/MAUMELLE	12.5%
WAYNE GRUEBER	PULASKI COUNTY	12.5%
RANDY MORLEY	NORTH LITTLE ROCK	12.5%
PAULA JUEL-JONES	NORTH LITTLE ROCK	12.5%
MELANIE MARTIN	LITTLE ROCK	12.5%
MARK LEVERETT	LITTLE ROCK	12.5%
VIC FLEMING	LITTLE ROCK	12.5%

ASSINGMENT OF CASES: The State District Judges have signed an exchange agreement, a copy of which is attached to this Amended Case Assignment Plan, permitting the respective judges to sit in the respective courts other than their own pursuant to and under the authority of Ark. Const. Amend. 80, Sec. 7; Ark. Code Ann. Sec. 16-17-102 and Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 18, section 6. By signing this exchange agreement, the District Judges will have the authority to hear circuit court cases with jurisdiction and venue in Pulaski and Perry Counties that have either been referred to them or which have been transferred to them by consent.

The Circuit Judges of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, as indicated by their approval to this Plan, intend to fully utilize the full-time District Judges possible pursuant to the requirements of Administrative Order No. 18, Sec. 6. A record should be made of all matters referred to state district judges.

**MATTERS SUBJECT TO REFERENCE**

The State District Judges shall hear cases originating from the Office of Child Support and Enforcement, final Petitions for Orders of Protection, and unlawful detainer actions. The State District Judges have agreed to and have been assigned specific days to hear these cases. A calendar of the schedules of the judges will be maintained by the Administrative Judge and is open for inspection. The State District Court will hear cases Monday through Thursday of each week. A courtroom in the Pulaski County Courthouse has been created and used by the State District Judges. Beginning in 2021, the courtroom

moved to the Juvenile Justice Center in the courtroom vacated by Judge Branton. The Circuit Court has arranged for staffing including a case coordinator and bailiff.

The cases are assigned to one of the circuit judges, but the category of cases is heard by referral by the State District Judges pursuant to Admin. Order No. 18. In addition to the category of cases described above, other matters may be submitted to the State District Judges such as authorized by Admin. Order No. 18 (6)(b) upon agreement of the Circuit Judges and the State District Judges. If there are any substantive changes to this Implementation Plan, the Supreme Court will be asked to approve the change.

The administrative judge for the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, with the concurrence of a majority of the circuit court judges, and with the consent of the district judges, has appointed the judges of the Pulaski County District Court, the Little Rock District Court-Criminal Division, the Sherwood District Court, the North Little Rock District Court-Criminal Division, and the Maumelle/Jacksonville District Court to hear the following matters authorized by the Arkansas Rules of Criminal Procedure 1.8 (b)(iii)-(v):

1. Make a reasonable cause determination pursuant to Arkansas Rule of Criminal Procedure 4.1(e).
2. Conduct a first appearance pursuant to Arkansas Rules of Criminal Procedure 8.1, at which the Criminal Magistrate may appoint counsel pursuant to Rule 8.2; inform a defendant pursuant to Rule 8.3; accept a plea of “not guilty” or “not guilty by reason of insanity”; conduct a pretrial release inquiry pursuant to Rules 8.4 and 8.5; or release a defendant from custody pursuant to Rules 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3;
3. Conduct a preliminary hearing as provided by ACA Sec. 16-93-307(a).

**Recording equipment has been installed and is in use.**

## **DISTRICT COURT SPECIALITY COURT**

**10. Pulaski County Mental Health Court:** The Little Rock District Court, has created the Pulaski County Mental Health Court-Little Rock, which was established pursuant to ACA Sec. 16-100-101 and ACA Sec. 16-100-201, et seq. The Court will operate subject to the criteria contained in the Amended Little Rock District Court Administrative Plan. The Court is a voluntary, post-adjudication, highly intensive supervision program designed to address the needs of high risk/high needs persons with a mental illness or co-occurring disorder with current misdemeanor criminal cases.

**Statutory or Legal Authority.** Pursuant to ACA Sec. 16-100-204 (b)(2), the administrative plan for the judicial circuit may designate a district court judge(s) to administer the mental health specialty court program if a judicial district does not have a circuit judge who is available to administer the mental health specialty court program on a consistent basis.

**Certification.** The program conforms to all applicable sentencing laws, including fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessment.

The district court judge designated to administer the mental health specialty court program include:

Judge Melanie Martin	Little Rock District Court	Division 1
Judge Leverett	Little Rock District Court	Division 3

**TYPE OF PROGRAM AND DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS:** Pulaski County Mental Health Court-Little Rock is a voluntary, post-adjudication, highly intensive supervision program designed to address the needs of high risk/high needs person with a mental illness or co-occurring disorder with current misdemeanor criminal cases. Mental Health Court is available only to defendants meeting program eligibility requirements; the defendant must be an adult resident of Pulaski County, having no unresolved felony offenses or active offenses. Mental Health Court is a minimum of twelve (12) months. Mental Health Court is held the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2:30 p.m., at Little Rock District Court -1<sup>st</sup> Division Criminal, 600 W. Markham, Little Rock, AR.

**Admission to the Mental Health Court is completed in a series of steps:**

**Step One: Application-** If the defendant meets the above criteria, he/she or defense counsel may make a request for a referral to Mental Health Court, which then must be submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Speedy trial will be tolled during the entire process.

**Step Two: Preliminary Approval-** After the request is submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney will review the pending charges and criminal history. If the Deputy Prosecuting attorney determines that the defendant's request should be considered for further review and approved, the defendant will be scheduled for an assessment.

**Step Three: Probation Assessment-** An assessment will be administered by the Probation Officer to determine the defendants' risk and needs. The Probation Officer will schedule a subsequent assessment with a Mental Health treatment Provider.

**Step Four: Mental Health Assessment-** Another assessment will be administered by a Mental Health Treatment Provider in order to determine clinical appropriateness for the program. Entry into Mental Health Court is usually limited to those who are determined as high risk/high needs and meet program criteria.

**Step Five: Mental Health Court Team Review-** After the completion of the assessments, the probation officer and treatment providers will share the information with the Mental Health Court Team for a final review.

**Step Six: Plea**-If the defendants request is approved by the Mental Health Court Team, he/she will be provided a date for acceptance of plea before the Mental Health Court Judge. Prior to the court date, the defendant must make an appointment with defense counsel to complete all necessary forms.

**Step Seven: Sentencing**- The defendant will appear at a hearing before the Mental Health Court Judge to be formally accepted into Mental Health Court.

**Use of Court Resources:** The Pulaski County Mental Health Court-Little Rock team includes one (1) full-time District Judge, (1) full-time Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, (1) full-time Deputy Public Defender, (1) Probation Officer, (1) Law Enforcement Officer, (1) Coordinator, and (4) Representatives from community treatment providers, including Centers for Youth and Family Services, Professional Counseling Associates, Department of Human Services, and Veterans Affairs. Team members have attended training programs offered by the State of Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts. Pulaski County Mental Health Court-Little Rock was implemented and operates according to the MHC Best Practices and Arkansas law.

- a. **Sources of Funding:** Pulaski County Mental Health Court-Little Rock receives support from the City of Little Rock, the Public Defender Commission, the Pulaski County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and Federal Providers.

11. **Copies of District Court Administrative Plans:** A copy of the Administrative Plans for the District Courts in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Sherwood, Maumelle, Jacksonville, Wrightsville/Cammack Village and Perry County are attached. Paragraph 9, above, is incorporated into each of the District Court Administrative Plans as if set out word for word therein.

The Case Assignment Plan for the Sixth Judicial Circuit is submitted for approval on this 30 day of November 2021.

Approved:

  
Judge Leon Johnson


  
Judge Casey Tucker

  
Judge Cathleen Compton

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Herb Wright


---

Judge Wendell Griffen



---

Judge Barry Sims




---

Judge Andy Gill



---

Judge Patricia James



---

Judge Mike Reif



---

Judge Amy Johnson

---

Judge Mackie Pierce

---

Judge Tim Fox



---

Judge Tjuana Byrd



---

Judge Shanice Johnson



---

Judge Alice Gray



---

Judge Shawn Johnson



---

Judge Morgan "Chip" Welch