

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
CRAWFORD COUNTY
ALL DIVISIONS**

The following is submitted by the elected judges of the Twenty-first Judicial district as the Administrative Plan to be approved by the Arkansas Supreme Court to become effective January 1, 2018. The following method of new case assignment shall be used by the Clerks of the Twenty-first Judicial District:

The Twenty-first Judicial District consists of Crawford County. There are two Circuit judges and one District Judge serving this District.

Judge Gary R. Cottrell, Circuit Judge, Division one, Judge Mike Medlock, Circuit Judge, Division two and Judge Charles Baker, District Judge.

Locations: Division One – Judge Gary R. Cottrell, Crawford County Courthouse

Van Buren, AR 72956

300 Main St., Room 25,

**Division Two – Judge Mike Medlock, 220 South 4th Street,
Van Buren, AR 72956**

**District Court – Judge Charles Baker, 1003 Broadway, Van
Buren, AR 72956**

ASSIGNMENTS

JUVENILE: All new Juvenile Division cases shall be assigned to Division II, Judge Mike Medlock.

PROBATE DIVISION: All new Probate Division cases shall be assigned to Division I, Judge Gary R. Cottrell.

CIVIL DIVISION: All new Civil Division cases filings are to be assigned as follows:

60% to Judge Gary R. Cottrell

40% to Judge Mike Medlock

CRIMINAL DIVISION: All new Criminal Division cases are to be assigned as follows:

60% to Judge Gary R. Cottrell

40% to Judge Mike Medlock

DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION: All new Domestic Relations

Divisions cases are to be assigned as follows:

60% to Judge Mike Medlock

40% to Judge Gary R. Cottrell

JUVENILE TRANSFER HEARINGS: When a petition to transfer a criminal charge is filed under Arkansas Code Annotated section 9-27-318, this judicial district agrees to have the transfer hearing conducted in the juvenile division of the circuit court. If the juvenile division of the circuit court denies the petition, the case shall remain in the original criminal division of the circuit court. If the juvenile's criminal charges are transferred and converted into delinquency charges under Arkansas Code Annotated section 9-27-318, the case will then remain in the juvenile division.

DRUG COURT: Division I Judge Gary R. Cottrell shall preside over the Drug Court. The 21st District drug court program has been in operation since 2001. Court sessions are conducted in Crawford

County. The program now utilizes a pre adjudication process and is open to defendants who have committed eligible offenses and are recommended by the prosecutor. The program is conducted in conformance with state drug court statutes and complies with applicable laws involving the assessment of fines, fees, court costs, and probation fees. The program receives staff and funding from the Department of Community Corrections.

The members of the drug court program team include the prosecuting attorney or deputy, the public defender, drug counseling treatment professionals, DCC staff and local court staff. The members have been consulted for purpose of scheduling, to insure that the necessary resources are available and to avoid conflicts with other court programs and responsibilities in which team members may be required to participate.

STATE DISTRICT JUDGE: Protective Orders. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann § 9-15-201-217; Matters of an emergency or uncontested nature pending in the civil, domestic relations, or probate division of either

Division I or II, Circuit Court, such as, ex parte emergency involuntary commitments pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 20-47-209-210, decedent estate administration, uncontested divorces, and defaults, shall be assigned to the State District Judge as may in the discretion of the Circuit Judges promote the administration of justice and timely disposition of cases. The District Judge shall also Issue arrest warrants pursuant to Rule 7.1 or Ark. Code Ann.§ 16-81-104, or issue a summons pursuant to Rule 6.1. and make reasonable cause determinations pursuant to Rule 4.1(e) as requested or necessary to promote the administration of justice.

REOPENINGS: All reopening's in the Criminal, Civil and Domestic Relations Divisions shall be assigned to the Division previously assigned to the case.

RANDOM ASSIGNMENT: The District uses the Context system provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts for the random assignment of cases. Based on current AOC numbers each judge will have between 2500 and 3000 cases per year. By execution of this

plan, the Judges further agree that they may agreeably exchange/transfer cases due to a conflict, emergency, disability, or when required for the administration of Justice.

ELECTION OF SPECIAL JUDGES: The judges will comply with Administrative Orders 1 and 16 regarding the election of Special Judges and requests for assignment of Judges by the Supreme Court.

RECUSALS: When a judge in either Division recuses the case shall be referred to the other division for disposition. If both judges recuse from a case the last judge recusing shall be responsible for writing a letter to the Chief Justice for assignment of a special judge pursuant to Administrative Rule 16.

CASE APPORTIONMENT

Based upon the case assignments set out in this plan and the numbers provided in the 2016 Circuit Court annual report the approximate case load will be:

DIVISION I: 2819

DIVISION II: 2636

Uncontested Divorces and Protective Order cases from this combined number may be assigned to the State District Judge as set forth above.

APPROVAL

The judges of the Twenty-first Judicial District hereby approve this administrative plan and submit it to the Arkansas Supreme Court for its approval this 21 day of June 2017.



Hon. Gary R. Cottrell
Circuit Judge Div. I



Hon Mike Medlock
Circuit Judge Div. II

I Charles Baker, State District Judge, hereby affix my signature to this plan for approval of those matters that involve the assignment of cases as provide by Administrative Rule 18.



Hon. Charles Baker
District Judge