IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR PASCO AND PINELLAS COUNTIES, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2016-007 PA-CIR

RE: CREATION OF A NEW JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ASSIGNMENT IN EAST PASCO COUNTY

Due to the increasing number of cases in Pasco County, it has become necessary to add an additional circuit judge to the existing judges now assigned to the Robert D. Sumner Judicial Center in Dade City. Because the Florida Legislature has not created a new judgeship for the Sixth Judicial Circuit since 2005, the undersigned is compelled to close a section in Pinellas County and move a judicial position to Pasco County. Initially this position will be filled by the new judge who will be selected by the Governor to fill the seat vacated by the retirement of the Honorable J. Thomas McGrady. The caseload of this new circuit judge will be a combination of foreclosure cases and dissolution of marriage actions as detailed further herein.

In accordance with Article V, section 2, Florida Constitution, Rules of Judicial Administration 2.215, and section 43.26, Florida Statutes,

IT IS ORDERED:

- 1. The new judge will be assigned the sections J1 and J4 Residential Foreclosures that are presently assigned to the Honorable Linda H. Babb.
- 2. The new judge will also be assigned Section J5, Commercial Foreclosures that are presently assigned to Judge Babb.
- 3. Currently, Family Court Domestic Relations sections K and L are both assigned to the Honorable Alicia Polk. Effective immediately, the Clerk of the Court shall review all active cases in sections K and L and shall designate any active domestic relations action involving minor children as a section K case. Similarly, any active sections K or L domestic relations action that does not involve minor children shall be designated by the Clerk as a section L case. Hereafter, newly opened cases shall be designated to section K or L based upon whether minor children are involved.
- 4. The new judge will be assigned only the domestic relations cases without children and identified as section L cases. The active cases involving minor children will remain assigned to Judge Polk and should all be designated as section K cases.
- 5. It is anticipated that the new judge will be able to commence a full calendar on Monday, May 30, 2016, and thus the effective date for reassigned foreclosures and dissolutions without children will be that date. In the interim, lawyers or pro-se parties wishing to schedule matters on the new judge's docket must do so by contacting Judge Babb's office (for civil) and Judge Polk's office (for family).

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida this day of March, 2016.

cc: All Judges

The Honorable Bernie McCabe, State Attorney

The Honorable Bob Dillinger, Public Defender

The Honorable Paula S. O'Neil, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Pasco County

The Honorable Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Pinellas County

Gay Inskeep, Trial Courts Administrator

Ngozi Acholonu, Assistant Regional Counsel

Lillian Simon, Director of Administrative Services for Pasco County

Bar Associations, Pasco and Pinellas Counties

Law Libraries, Pasco and Pinellas Counties