

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2026-009 PI-CTY

**RE: APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES TO HEAR CERTAIN MISDEMEANORS AND
LOCAL ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS FOR VETERANS AT A SATELLITE
LOCATION**

In order to assist in the reduction of outstanding non-violent misdemeanor warrants and warrants for failure to appear for local ordinance violations for Veterans in Pinellas County and to provide assistance to the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts in reaching out to homeless Veterans, and

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

IT IS ORDERED:

1. In accordance with Article V, section 7 of the Florida Constitution, the Chief Judge designates the following location as one where court proceedings may be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at C.W. Bill Young VAMC, Bldg. 2, 10000 Bay Pines Boulevard, Bay Pines, Florida, 33744.

2. At such time and place the Honorable Joseph Lawhorne and the Honorable Diane Croff, designated by Chief Judge Shawn Crane, are authorized to hear any local ordinance violation case, any non-violent misdemeanor case, and any other misdemeanor case in which the victim has been notified and the State Attorney's Office has agreed to the case being heard during the proceedings on March 28, 2026, involving a Veteran and thereafter:

- a. to accept a plea,
- b. withdraw a warrant or capias and set the matter for subsequent hearing,
- c. otherwise dispose of misdemeanors with the consent of the State Attorney and defense attorney,
- d. resolve fines on closed felony cases, and
- e. otherwise dispose of local ordinance violations as appropriate.

These judges may exercise this authority over any case involving a Veteran regardless of the section to which the case is assigned.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Clearwater, Pinellas County, Florida, this _____ day of February 2026.

ORIGINAL SIGNED ON FEBRUARY 17, 2026
BY SHAWN CRANE, CHIEF JUDGE

cc: All Pinellas Judges
The Honorable Bruce Bartlett, State Attorney
The Honorable Sara Mollo, Public Defender
The Honorable Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Pinellas County
The Honorable Bob Gualtieri, Sheriff, Pinellas County
Jennifer Parker, Trial Courts Administrator
Michele Emmerman, Deputy Trial Courts Administrator
Ita M. Neymotin, Regional Counsel, Second District
Ngozi Acholonu, Assistant Regional Counsel
Jewel White, Pinellas County Attorney
Department of Veterans Affairs
Pinellas County Municipalities
Bar Associations
Law Library, Pinellas County