

2022 MAY 31 PM 1:30

BY  DEPUTY

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF PINAL**

**IN THE MATTER OF ASSIGNMENT AND)
DUTIES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT)
JUDGES, COURT COMMISSIONERS/)
JUDGES PRO TEM (JPT))**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 2022 - 000029

WHEREAS, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Arizona in and for Pinal County is the chief judicial officer of the county and has administrative authority over all courts in Pinal County, pursuant to Article VI of the Arizona Constitution and Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2017-79; and

WHEREAS, in an ongoing effort to enhance the efficiency of the Judicial Branch of Government in Pinal County, a reallocation of resources is appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED affirming all current duties and assignments of all full-time and part-time judicial officers of the Superior Court, except where modified by this Administrative Order. This order is effective August 1, 2022.

DIVISION NUMBERS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Division Numbers are assigned as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Judge Kevin D. White (KDW), | Division 19 |
| Judge Joseph R. Georgini (JRG), | Division 20 |
| Judge Steven J. Fuller (SJF), | Division 23 |
| Judge Daniel A. Washburn (DAW), | Division 24 |
| Judge Jason R. Holmberg (JRH), | Division 25 |
| Judge Delia R. Neal (DRN), | Division 28 |
| Judge Christopher J. O'Neil (CJN), | Division 29 |
| Judge Robert Carter Olson (RCO), | Division 30 |
| Judge Patrick K. Gard (PKG), | Division 31 |
| Judge Lacey A. Stover Gard (LSG), | Division 32 |

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Administrative Order
 Assignment of Duties of Superior Court Judges and Commissioners/Pro Tems

Commissioner/JPT Larry Wharton (LMW),	Division 106
Commissioner/JPT Barbara Hazel (BAH),	Division 113
Commissioner/JPT Karen Palmer, (KFP),	Division 114
Commissioner/JPT Jessica K. Dixon (JKD),	Division 115
Commissioner/JPT Matthew Reed (MSR),	Division 116
Commissioner/JPT Kelly S. Neal III (KSN),	Division 117
Commissioner/JPT Danielle Harris (DH),	Division 118

A.R.S. §36-2152 PETITIONS (MINOR ABORTIONS)

IT IS ORDERED that Daniel A. Washburn and Delia R. Neal shall preside over any petitions filed pursuant to A.R.S. §36-2152.

ADOPTIONS

IT IS ORDERED that all adoptions filed by either a private party or attorney (including the Arizona Attorney General or Pinal County Attorney's Office) shall be assigned to Joseph R. Georgini.

CIVIL

IT IS ORDERED that Christopher J. O'Neil shall continue to serve as the Presiding Civil Judge.

IT IS ORDERED that all new Civil files (identified by the prefix (CV), regardless of the specific case type, and any lower court appeal of a civil protective proceeding, except as otherwise specified in this AO, shall be assigned to Christopher J. O'Neil, Joseph R. Georgini and Robert C. Olson, as determined by the two terminal digits of each new Civil file, as follows:

00 RCO	10 CJO	20 JRG	30 RCO	40 CJO	50 JRG	60 RCO	70 CJO	80 JRG	90 RCO
01 CJO	11 JRG	21 RCO	31 CJO	41 JRG	51 RCO	61 CJO	71 JRG	81 RCO	91 CJO
02 JRG	12 RCO	22 CJO	32 JRG	42 RCO	52 CJO	62 JRG	72 RCO	82 CJO	92 JRG
03 RCO	13 CJO	23 JRG	33 RCO	43 CJO	53 JRG	63 RCO	73 CJO	83 JRG	93 RCO
04 CJO	14 JRG	24 RCO	34 CJO	44 JRG	54 RCO	64 CJO	74 JRG	84 RCO	94 CJO
05 JRG	15 RCO	25 CJO	35 JRG	45 RCO	55 CJO	65 JRG	75 RCO	85 CJO	95 JRG
06 RCO	16 CJO	26 JRG	36 RCO	46 CJO	56 JRG	66 RCO	76 CJO	86 JRG	96 RCO
07 CJO	17 JRG	27 RCO	37 CJO	47 JRG	57 RCO	67 CJO	77 JRG	87 RCO	97 CJO
08 JRG	18 RCO	28 CJO	38 JRG	48 RCO	58 CJO	68 JRG	78 RCO	88 CJO	98 JRG
09 RCO	19 CJO	29 JRG	39 RCO	49 CJO	59 JRG	69 RCO	79 CJO	89 JRG	99 RCO

Administrative Order
Assignment of Duties of Superior Court Judges and Commissioners/Pro Tems

IT IS ORDERED that all pending civil cases assigned to Lacey Stover Gard (LSG), shall be reassigned to Robert C. Olson (RCO). These matters should be reassigned as soon as practical, by whatever method deemed most appropriate by the Presiding Civil Judge, but case transfer shall be completed no later than August 31, 2022.

IT IS ORDERED that all lower court, including criminal and non-criminal, appeals be assigned to Christopher J. O'Neil and in his discretion, may be reassigned within the Civil Bench by separate Order of the Presiding Civil Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that routine filings by inmates, including but not limited to torts, violation of civil rights (42 USC §1983 actions) and requests for injunctive or declaratory relief, are assigned to the Civil Bench pursuant to the matrix above, notwithstanding the Plaintiff's status as an inmate.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all current and new cases assigned to the Adult Drug Court, in Apache Junction, shall transfer from Lacey Stover Gard (LSG) and be assigned to Robert C. Olson. Case transfer shall be completed no later than August 31, 2022.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Robert C. Olson continue in his role as superior court liaison to the Jury Department.

CRIMINAL

IT IS ORDERED that Jason R. Holmberg be assigned as the Presiding Criminal Court Judge.

IT IS ORDERED that all new Criminal files (identified by the prefix CR), except for those matters assigned to specialty courts, such as *Mental Health Treatment Court, Veteran's Treatment Court, Adult Drug Court, Fines, Fees and Restitution Court, Probation and Restoration Court and Early Disposition Court*, shall be assigned to Lacey Stover Gard, Jason R. Holmberg, Steven J. Fuller and Daniel A. Washburn as periodically determined by separate Order of the Presiding Criminal Judge. In the absence of a separate order by the Presiding Criminal Judge, the arraignment judge will equitably and efficiently assign cases, in the discretion of the arraignment judge, and cases that are reopened will remain assigned to the original judge if still on the Criminal Bench or, if not still on the Criminal Bench, will be administratively reassigned by the Clerk using the following matrix, except for petitions for post-conviction relief that are assigned to the sentencing judge, regardless of current assignment, if still a member of the Bench.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all new criminal and quasi-criminal cases in which the Defendant is in custody in a correctional facility or jail, other than the ADOC, shall be assigned to Lacey Stover Gard, Daniel A. Washburn, Jason R. Holmberg, and Steven J. Fuller, as determined by the two terminal digits of each case as follows:

Administrative Order
 Assignment of Duties of Superior Court Judges and Commissioners/Pro Tems

00 LSG	10 SJF	20 LSG	30 SJF	40 LSG	50 SJF	60 LSG	70 SJF	80 LSG	90 SJF
01 DAW	11 JRH	21 DAW	31 JRH	41 DAW	51 JRH	61 DAW	71 JRH	81 DAW	91 JRH
02 SJF	12 LSG	22 SJF	32 LSG	42 SJF	52 LSG	62 SJF	72 LSG	82 SJF	92 LSG
03 JRH	13 DAW	23 JRH	33 DAW	43 JRH	53 DAW	63 JRH	73 DAW	83 JRH	93 DAW
04 LSG	14 SJF	24 LSG	34 SJF	44 LSG	54 SJF	64 LSG	74 SJF	84 LSG	94 SJF
05 DAW	15 JRH	25 DAW	35 JRH	45 DAW	55 JRH	65 DAW	75 JRH	85 DAW	95 JRH
06 SJF	16 LSG	26 SJF	36 LSG	46 SJF	56 LSG	66 SJF	76 LSG	86 SJF	96 LSG
07 JRH	17 DAW	27 JRH	37 DAW	47 JRH	57 DAW	67 JRH	77 DAW	87 JRH	97 DAW
08 LSG	18 SJF	28 LSG	38 SJF	48 LSG	58 SJF	68 LSG	78 SJF	88 LSG	98 SJF
09 DAW	19 JRH	29 DAW	39 JRH	49 DAW	59 JRH	69 DAW	79 JRH	89 DAW	99 JRH

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED pursuant to Administrative Order 2021-00024, once an application for Habeas Corpus is filed, it shall be assigned to the Criminal Presiding Judge for assessment and assignment as determined by separate Order of the Presiding Criminal Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all cases in which the Defendant is in custody of the ADCRR and set on the Virtual Court calendar shall be heard by Karen F. Palmer beginning August 1, 2022. This calendar will be used for all appropriate uses and calendar size will expand with demand.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all criminal cases currently assigned to Robert C. Olson shall be reassigned to Lacey Stover Gard as soon as practical, by whatever method deemed most appropriate by the Presiding Criminal Judge, no later than August 31, 2022.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all matters assigned to the arraignment calendar shall be heard by Matthew S. Reed; and, all matters assigned to *Early Disposition Court, Probation and Restoration Court, and Fines, Fees and Restitution Court* shall be heard by Karen F. Palmer (KFP).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all matters involving the Restoration of Rights, Expungements and Petitions to Set Aside Convictions shall be assigned to Karen F. Palmer beginning August 1, 2022.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Petitions for Post-Conviction Relief shall be assigned to Lacey Stover Gard, Jason R. Holmberg, Steven F. Fuller and Daniel A. Washburn, except that if the judicial officer who heard the criminal matter is still on the Bench, that petition will be assigned to them. In the event that a Judge conducts a Settlement Conference and the matter proceeds to Sentencing, any Petitions for Post-Conviction Relief shall be referred back to the assigned trial judge for all further proceedings.

Administrative Order
Assignment of Duties of Superior Court Judges and Commissioners/Pro Tems

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all new ex parte motions filed in criminal matters will continue to be assigned to Robert C. Olson or following consultation with the trial judge, may be reassigned to the trial judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a *signature basket* will continue to be utilized for court staff to obtain signatures on various routine orders on short notice, such as summons and transport orders. Items in the *signature basket* will be assigned to Karen F. Palmer for review and signature. The Criminal Presiding Judge shall define and regulate the scope of permissible orders that are appropriate for this resource, as opposed to matters that must be submitted directly to the judicial officer who is assigned to the underlying case.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all criminal cases in which the competency and/or restoration of the defendant is at issue pursuant to Rule 11 of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be heard by Matthew S. Reed beginning August 1, 2022.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Rule 11 Pre-Screens shall remain with the Court ordering the evaluation, unless such evaluation originates from the Arraignment Court. Rule 11 Pre-Screens originating from the Arraignment Court shall be transferred to a Trial Division. If a full Rule 11 evaluation is ordered by the trial court it shall be assigned to Matthew S. Reed beginning August 1, 2022. If found competent to stand trial, cases shall be assigned or reassigned to a trial court.

FAMILY

IT IS ORDERED that Patrick K. Gard will continue to serve as the Presiding Family Law Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all family law cases currently assigned to Karen F. Palmer shall be reassigned to Jessica K. Dixon as soon as practical, by whatever method deemed most appropriate by the Presiding Family Law Judge but case transfer shall be completed no later than August 31, 2022.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that beginning August 1, 2022, all new Family Law or Domestic Relations cases (identified by the prefix DO, shall be assigned to Patrick K. Gard, Jessica K. Dixon, Larry M. Wharton and Kelly S. Neal III as determined by the two terminal digits of each Domestic Relations file as follows:

00 KSN	10 KSN	20 KSN	30 KSN	40 KSN	50 KSN	60 KSN	70 KSN	80 KSN	90 KSN
01 JKD	11 LMW	21 PKG	31 JKD	41 LMW	51 PKG	61 JKD	71 LMW	81 PKG	91 JKD
02 LMW	12 PKG	22 JKD	32 LMW	42 PKG	52 JKD	62 LMW	72 PKG	82 JKD	92 LMW
03 PKG	13 JKD	23 LMW	33 PKG	43 JKD	53 LMW	63 PKG	73 JKD	83 LMW	93 PKG
04 JKD	14 LMW	24 PKG	34 JKD	44 LMW	54 PKG	64 JKD	74 LMW	84 PKG	94 JKD
05 LMW	15 PKG	25 JKD	35 LMW	45 PKG	55 JKD	65 LMW	75 PKG	85 JKD	95 LMW

Administrative Order

Assignment of Duties of Superior Court Judges and Commissioners/Pro Tems

06 PKG	16 JKD	26 LMW	36 PKG	46 JKD	56 LMW	66 PKG	76 JKD	86 LMW	96 PKG
07 JKD	17 LMW	27 PKG	37 JKD	47 LMW	57 PKG	67 JKD	77 LMW	87 PKG	97 JKD
08 LMW	18 PKG	28 JKD	38 LMW	48 PKG	58 JKD	68 LMW	78 PKG	88 JKD	98 LMW
09 PKG	19 JKD	29 LMW	39 PKG	49 JKD	59 LMW	69 PKG	79 JKD	89 LMW	99 PKG

FAMILY LAW COMMISSIONER/IVD

IT IS ORDERED that the all Family Law or Domestic Relations cases (identified by the prefix DO), which proceed to a default hearing; all consent decrees; and, any case to establish, enforce or modify child support that the Arizona Attorney General Office is the attorney of record, shall continue to be heard by Kelly S. Neal III on a designated "Family Law Commissioner" calendar.

GUARDIANSHIP/CONSERVATORSHIP/PROBATE

IT IS ORDERED that Kevin D. White shall remain the Presiding Probate Judge.

IT IS ORDERED that all Guardianship and/or Conservatorship cases (identified by the prefix GC), filed pursuant to Title 14 of the Arizona Revised Statutes shall continue to be assigned to Kevin D. White on the designated Guardianship/Conservatorship calendar.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Probate cases (identified by the prefix (PB), filed pursuant to Title 14 of the Arizona Revised Statutes shall also be assigned to the Kevin D. White.

JUVENILE DEPENDENCY/DELINQUENCY

IT IS ORDERED that Delia R. Neal will continue to serve as the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge.

IT IS ORDERED that Delia R. Neal, Barbara A. Hazel and Danielle Harris shall preside over all dependency matters assigned to them, including pre-protective hearings every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The objective, to the fullest extent possible and practical, is for the assigned Dependency superior court judges to maintain equal caseloads and address all issues including pre-protective placement and permanency and thereby achieve the earliest appropriate adjudication of such matters, which is consistent with the best interests of the child.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all delinquency matters currently assigned to the Danielle Harris, as the "Juvenile Delinquency Judge," in addition to all new Juvenile Delinquency matters shall be heard by Mathew S. Reed commencing August 1, 2022.

Administrative Order
Assignment of Duties of Superior Court Judges and Commissioners/Pro Tems

SEVERANCES

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Severance matters filed by the Arizona Attorney General, and/or arising from a Dependency matter, shall be heard by the assigned dependency judge. All new private severances (identified by the prefix (SV), filed on or after August 1, 2022, shall be assigned to Delia R. Neal, Barbara A. Hazel and Danielle Harris, as determined by the two terminal digits of each new Severance file, as follows:

00 DRN	10 BAH	20 DH	30 DRN	40 BAH	50 DH	60 DRN	70 BAH	80 DH	90 DRN
01 BAH	11 DH	21 DRN	31 BAH	41 DH	51 DRN	61 BAH	71 DH	81 DRN	91 BAH
02 DH	12 DRN	22 BAH	32 DH	42 DRN	52 BAH	62 DH	72 DRN	82 BAH	92 DH
03 DRN	13 BAH	23 DH	33 DRN	43 BAH	53 DH	63 DRN	73 BAH	83 DH	93 DRN
04 BAH	14 DH	24 DRN	34 BAH	44 DH	54 DRN	64 BAH	74 DH	84 DRN	94 BAH
05 DH	15 DRN	25 BAH	35 DH	45 DRN	55 BAH	65 DH	75 DRN	85 BAH	95 DH
06 DRN	16 BAH	26 DH	36 DRN	46 BAH	56 DH	66 DRN	76 BAH	86 DH	96 DRN
07 BAH	17 DH	27 DRN	37 BAH	47 DH	57 DRN	67 BAH	77 DH	87 DRN	97 BAH
08 DH	18 DRN	28 BAH	38 DH	48 DRN	58 BAH	68 DH	78 DRN	88 BAH	98 DH
09 DRN	19 BAH	29 DH	39 DRN	49 BAH	59 DH	69 DRN	79 BAH	89 DH	99 DRN

MENTAL HEALTH (TITLE 36/RULE 11)

IT IS ORDERED that all Mental Health cases (identified by the prefix MH), pursuant to A.R.S § 36-501, currently assigned to Danielle Harris shall be assigned to Matthew S. Reed commencing August 1, 2022. In addition, all new Mental Health cases (identified by the prefix MH), pursuant to A.R.S § 36-501, shall be assigned to Matthew S. Reed, effective August 1, 2022

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as defined in the Criminal section of this Order, all criminal cases in which the competency and/or restoration of the defendant is at issue pursuant to Rule 11 of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be heard by Matthew S. Reed commencing August 1, 2022.

SPECIALTY COURTS

IT IS ORDERED that specialty courts, (except *Adult Drug Court, Early Disposition Court, Probation and Restoration Court, Virtual Court and Fines, Fees and Restitution Court*) including *Mental Health Court and Veteran's Treatment Court* shall be heard by Matthew S. Reed.

Administrative Order
Assignment of Duties of Superior Court Judges and Commissioners/Pro Tems

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that *Adult Drug Court*, in Casa Grande, shall be heard by Christopher J. O'Neil; and the *Adult Drug Court*, in Apache Junction, shall be heard by Robert C. Olson.

DESIGNATION OF PRESIDING JUDGES

IT IS ORDERED delegating the authority of the Presiding Judge to the following jurists as presiding judges of their respective benches:

Christopher J. O'Neil, Civil Presiding Judge
Jason R. Holmberg, Criminal Presiding Judge
Delia R. Neal, Juvenile Presiding Judge/Chief Pretrial Judge
Patrick K. Gard, Family Law Presiding Judge
Kevin D. White, Presiding Probate Judge

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Presiding Judge for each bench is delegated general authority over their bench, except as modified or limited by Administrative Order or direction by the Presiding Judge, and shall specifically supervise staff judges that are assigned to the bench, coordinate coverage, and reassign cases within the bench as required. This includes authority to approve, or direct, the retention of cases by a judicial officer when they are otherwise due to be transferred per this Order. Questions regarding specific case transfers will be determined by a consensus of the Presiding "bucket" Judges impacted. The Presiding Judge will retain final authority if an agreement is not reached.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Kevin D. White will continue in his role as Associate Presiding Judge of the Pinal County Superior Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Robert C. Olson be appointed as Presiding Judge *emeritus* and continue to serve on the superior court leadership team.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Christopher J. O'Neil will continue to serve in his role as Chief Pretrial Judge and continue as liaison to the limited jurisdiction courts..

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED Larry M. Wharton will continue to serve as the Coordinating Commissioner until his term expires on June 30, 2023.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court shall update its records to reflect the reassignment of such cases.

Dated this 31st day of May, 2022



Honorable Joseph R. Georgini,
Presiding Judge

Administrative Order
Assignment of Duties of Superior Court Judges and Commissioners/Pro Tems

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Judges, Pinal County
Kent Volkmer, Pinal County Attorney
Rebecca Padilla, Clerk of the Court
Catherine Whalen, Indigent Defense Services
Kate Milewski, Office of Public Defender
Todd D. Zweig, Court Administration
Tracy McElroy, Conciliation Court Director
Rod McKone, Chief Probation Officer
Denise Smith, Juvenile Court Services Director
David Rodriguez, Chief Criminal Deputy County Attorney