

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-034 PA/PI-CIR

**RE: APPOINTMENT OF CIRCUIT JUDGES AS ACTING COUNTY JUDGES,
APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY JUDGES AS ACTING CIRCUIT JUDGES, AND
APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY JUDGES AS ACTING COUNTY JUDGES IN
ANOTHER COUNTY**

IT HAS been officially made known to me that it is necessary for the prompt dispatch of the business of the circuit and county courts, Sixth Judicial Circuit, Pasco and Pinellas Counties, that circuit judges be temporarily assigned to duty in the county court and that county judges be temporarily assigned to duty in the circuit court. In addition, it is necessary that county judges in Pasco County proceed temporarily and be assigned to duty in county court in Pinellas County, and county judges in Pinellas County proceed temporarily and be assigned to duty in county court in Pasco County. Consistent with *Physicians Healthcare Plans, Inc. v. Pfeifler*, 846 So. 2d 1129 (Fla. 2003), this order is limited in duration, it does not divest a court of jurisdiction, it does not assign a county judge to exclusively circuit work, nor does it assign a circuit judge to exclusively county work. Further, in this time of crowded dockets and extremely limited resources in the state courts system, it is necessary to utilize judicial resources in a cost-effective manner to maximize the efficient administration of justice. See, e.g., *State v. Brady*, 985 So. 2d 656, 665 (Fla. 2d DCA 2008), in which the appellate court relied upon a similar order to find that a circuit court judge had jurisdiction as an acting county court judge to hear a misdemeanor DUI case.

In accordance with Article V, section 2, Florida Constitution, Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, and section 43.26, Florida Statutes, it is therefore

ORDERED:

1. I do hereby assign and designate each circuit court judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida, to proceed to the county court in both Pasco and Pinellas Counties, to hear, conduct, try, and determine county court cases that are brought before the judge as a temporary judge of the county court, and thereafter to dispose of all matters considered by the judge, including but not limited to emergency and advisory duty matters from October 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021.

2. I further assign and designate each county court judge of Pasco and Pinellas Counties to proceed to the circuit court, Sixth Judicial Circuit, to hear, conduct, try, and determine circuit court cases that are brought before the judge as a temporary judge of the circuit court, and thereafter to dispose of all matters considered by the judge, including but not limited to emergency and advisory duty matters from October 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021.

3. I further assign and designate each county court judge of Pasco County to proceed to the county court in Pinellas County, to hear, conduct, try, and determine county court cases in Pinellas County that are brought before the judge as a temporary judge of the county court in

Pinellas County, and thereafter to dispose of all matters considered by the judge, including but not limited to emergency and advisory duty matters from October 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021.

4. I further assign and designate each county court judge of Pinellas County to proceed to the county court in Pasco County, to hear, conduct, try, and determine county court cases in Pasco County that are brought before the judge as a temporary judge of the county court in Pasco County, and thereafter to dispose of all matters considered by the judge, including but not limited to emergency and advisory duty matters from October 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021.

5. Each judge, under and by virtue of the authority hereof, is vested with all the powers and prerogatives conferred by the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida upon the judges of the courts to which each judge is hereby temporarily assigned.

Effective March 31, 2021, this administrative order is hereby rescinded.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida, this _____ day of October 2020.

ORIGINAL SIGNED ON OCTOBER 1, 2020
BY ANTHONY RONDOLINO, CHIEF JUDGE

cc: All Judges
The Honorable Bernie McCabe, State Attorney
The Honorable Bob Dillinger, Public Defender
The Honorable Nikki Alvarez-Sowles, Clerk of the Court, Pasco County
The Honorable Ken Burke, Clerk of the Court, Pinellas County
Gay Inskeep, Trial Courts Administrator
Ita M. Neymotin, Regional Counsel, Second District
Ngozi C. Acholonu, Assistant Regional Counsel, Second District
Lillian Simon, Director of Administrative Services, Pasco County
Kimberly Thompson, Chief Operations Officer, Pasco County Clerk's Office
Bar Associations, Pasco and Pinellas Counties
Law Libraries, Pasco and Pinellas Counties