

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF THE APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN THE JUVENILE COURTS OF THE APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA
STANDING ORDER OF THE COURT**

In Re: Amended Method of Case Assignment, Effective January 10, 2017

Effective January 10, 2017, the Clerk of Court shall assign all pending and future criminal and civil cases to the Judges of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit, as follows:

1. The cases shall be assigned based upon a rotating numbering system with Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver being one, Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest being two, and Judge John E. Worcester being three. In the event the next case in line for Judge Brenda S. Weaver is a case in which one of the parties is represented by George W. Weaver or any attorney employed in his office; Wesley Benjamin Weaver or any attorney employed in his office; John Luke Weaver or any attorney employed in his office; or George W. Weaver, Jr., or any attorney employed in his office, then Judge Weaver is recused, and that case shall be assigned to either Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest or Judge John E. Worcester on an alternating basis. The next case in line in which one of the parties is not represented by one of the attorneys above or any attorney employed in his office shall then be assigned to Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver.

In the event the next case in line for Judge John E. Worcester or Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest is a case in which one of the parties is represented by Herman Clark, David Clark, Barry Lee, or any attorney employed in the Clark & Clark office, Judge Worcester and Judge Priest are recused, and the case shall be assigned to Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver. The next case in line in which one of the parties is not represented by one of the attorneys above or any attorney employed in his office shall be assigned to Judge John E. Worcester or Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest on an alternating basis.

In the event the next case in line for Judge John E. Worcester is a case in which one of the parties is represented by Edwin Marger, then Judge Worcester is recused, and that case shall be assigned to Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver or Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest on an alternating basis. The next case in line in which one of the parties is not represented by the attorney above shall be assigned to Judge John E. Worcester.

In the event that one of the parties in a case is represented by R. Scott Kiker or any attorney in his office, Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver, Judge John E. Worcester, and Judge Mary

Elizabeth Priest, are recused from said matter, and the Clerk of the Superior Court shall submit the style of the case and case number to the Ninth Judicial Administrative District for the purpose of appointing a judge outside this circuit.

In the event that one of the parties in a case is represented by Sherri Lynn Dillard-Doss or any attorney in her office, Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver is recused from said matter, and the Clerk of the Superior Court shall assign the matter to Judge John E. Worcester or Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest on an alternating basis. The next case in line in which one of the parties is not represented by the attorney above or any attorney employed in her office shall then be assigned to Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver.

In the event that one of the parties in a case is represented by James T. Johnson or any attorney in his office, Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver and Judge John E. Worcester are recused from said matter, and the Clerk of the Superior Court shall assign the matter to Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest. The next case in line in which one of the parties is not represented by the attorney above or any attorney employed in his office shall then be assigned to Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver or Judge John E. Worcester on an alternating basis.

The goal of said case management system is that all Judges are allocated an equal number of cases.

2. All cases filed in Juvenile Court shall be assigned to the Chief Juvenile Judge, unless otherwise ordered.

3. The Clerk of Court shall comply with Uniform Superior Court Rule 3.2, which provides as follows:

3.2 Companion and related actions

When practical, all actions involving substantially the same parties, or substantially the same subject matter, or substantially the same factual issues, whether pending simultaneously or not, shall be assigned to the same judge. Whenever such action is refiled, or a derivative or companion action is filed or refiled, or a defendant is reindicted on a previous charge, or is indicted on a subsequent charge while still under charges or serving a confinement or probated sentence on a previous action, or co-defendants are indicted separately, such actions shall be assigned to the judge to whom the original action was or is assigned. Generally, such actions will be assigned to the judge to whom the action with the lower action number is assigned.

4. The Superior Court Judges of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit have determined that because Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver and John E. Worcester preside over accountability courts, the case load must be redistributed. Therefore, pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 15-1-

9.1(b)(2), Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest will additionally preside over all pending and future matters which are designated on the General Civil Case Filing Information Form (Non-Domestic) as one of the following: Wills/Estate (if real property is at issue); Real Property; Equity (if real property is at issue); Appeals/Reviews (all); and Other General Civil (if real property is at issue). This includes both nonjury and jury cases.

In the event that Judge Priest recuses herself from a real property action, the Clerk of the Superior Court will reassign the matter, pursuant to the case assignment system for the circuit, to either Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver or Judge John E. Worcester on an alternating basis.

Judge John E. Worcester will preside over all Child Support Enforcement cases. The cases will be assigned according to Judge 1, Judge 2, or Judge 3, but Judge Worcester will preside over all cases.

5. Superior Court Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver, Superior Court Judge Mary Elizabeth Priest, Superior Court Judge John E. Worcester, Chief Juvenile Judge Jan Wheeler, and Juvenile Judge Keith Galligan, mutually request the judicial assistance of the other, in accordance with O.C.G.A. 15-1-9.1(b)(2), until further order of the court, for the following reasons:

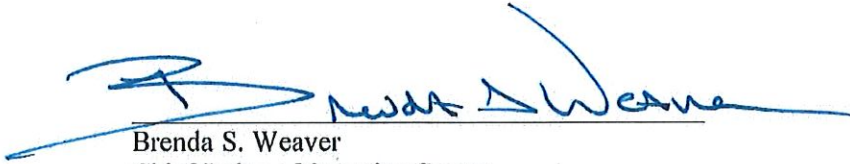
The Appalachian Judicial Circuit is a circuit consisting of three Superior Court Judges and two fulltime Juvenile Judges. There will be occasions when these judges, of necessity, will be absent from the office due to mandatory continuing educational seminars, meetings, illnesses, vacation, and for other unforeseen reasons and circumstances. There will also be matters from which the judges will be forced to disqualify themselves which may necessitate immediate action.

Additionally, pursuant to OCGA Section 15-1-9.1(b)(2), the judges of Appalachian Judicial Circuit's superior and juvenile courts have determined that, in order to promote judicial efficiency, minimize duplication of effort, and reduce trauma to victims, Chief Juvenile Judge Jan Wheeler and Juvenile Judge Keith Galligan will preside over Petitions for Temporary Protective Orders in Family Violence cases, all family law cases in which both parties are representing themselves, and any other Superior Court case or calendar that he or she may hear by designation. Said cases shall have no jurisdictional separation from superior court, and no separate official docket need be kept. Juvenile Court Judges responding under this request shall preside as Superior Court Judges, and cases shall not be considered "transferred." Said Juvenile

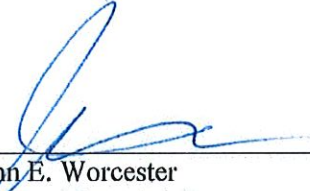
Court Judges shall continue to preside as Juvenile Court Judges in cases filed in the Juvenile Courts of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit.

The Amended Case Assignment Order effective October 5, 2016, is vacated and replaced by the instant order.

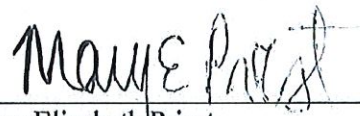
SO ORDERED, this 10th day of January, 2017.




Brenda S. Weaver
Chief Judge of Superior Courts
Appalachian Judicial Circuit




John E. Worcester
Judge of Superior Courts
Appalachian Judicial Circuit



Mary Elizabeth Priest
Judge of Superior Courts
Appalachian Judicial Circuit



Jan Wheeler
Chief Judge of Juvenile Courts
Appalachian Judicial Circuit



Keith Galligan
Judge of Juvenile Courts
Appalachian Judicial Circuit