



South Georgia Judicial Circuit

Baker, Calhoun, Decatur, Grady, and Mitchell Counties

Memorandum

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Heather H. Lanier, Chief Judge

Date: August 20, 2025

RE: Updated Case Assignments and Civil General Hearing Day Court Reporters
as of September 1, 2025

As previously established, Judge Lanier is the chief circuit superior court judge and will handle administrative matters and duties as necessary and as required by law of the chief judge. Judge Lanier will handle all criminal matters, including probation violations, unless otherwise ordered and/or conflicted; Judge C. Chason will be handling civil matters for Baker, Calhoun, and Grady, unless otherwise ordered or conflicted; Judge Heard will handle civil matters for Decatur and Mitchell Counties, unless otherwise ordered and/or conflicted.

Judge Heard and Judge Chason will supervise the circuit drug courts: Judge Chason will supervise Grady County Drug Court; Judge Heard will supervise Mitchell and Decatur County Drug Courts. Judge Lanier will still handle Calhoun County habeas matters, and Judge Chason will preside over Mitchell County habeas filings. Preferably, Judge Lanier will address the ex parte TPO applications, and, if granted, forward them to the county's assigned judge for a full hearing. Each of the three of the superior court judges will still communicate and be available to assist each other as needed to ensure cases are moving expeditiously (i.e. being present during criminal trial term to assist with pleas).

Presently, Judge Waters and Judge Bell will remain as juvenile and child support designated superior court judges as previously designated.

Beginning September 1, 2025, this Court will no longer provide a court reporter for the circuit's civil hearings. If either party desires for a civil hearing matter to be reported, such party will be responsible for procuring a court reporter for reporting the civil hearing. This Court will provide reporters for habeas hearings, civil trials, and criminal matters.