



South Georgia Judicial Circuit

Baker, Calhoun, Decatur, Grady and Mitchell Counties

Memorandum

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Heather H. Lanier, Chief Judge

Date: November 9, 2023

RE: Case Assignment System as of January 1, 2024

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.**

Each judge will be supervising a drug court: Judge Lanier will supervise Mitchell County; Judge Chason will supervise Grady County; Judge Heard will supervise Decatur County. Judge Lanier will still handle Calhoun County Habeas matters. 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.