



# South Georgia Judicial Circuit

*Baker, Calhoun, Decatur, Grady and Mitchell Counties*

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## Memorandum

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Heather H. Lanier, Chief Judge

Date: March 28, 2023

RE: Case Assignment System

All present circuit calendar dates will remain the same and the circuit will still have two dedicated court reporters, Ms. Lori Dezell and Mrs. Tracy Finan, who will keep the same calendared schedule.

Judge Lanier will be the chief circuit superior court judge and 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 Mitchell, unless otherwise ordered or conflicted; Judge Heard will handle civil matters for Decatur and Grady 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, and Judge Chason will cover Mitchell 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.