

IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF THE APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF GEORGIA

STANDING ORDER OF THE COURT

In RE: Method of Case Assignment

Effective April 1, 2011, the Clerk of Court shall assign all pending and future criminal, civil and juvenile cases to the Judges of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit, as follows:

1. The cases shall be assigned based upon a rotating numbering system with Judge Weaver being one, Judge Bradley being two, and Judge Mercier being three. In the event the next case in line for Judge Weaver is a case in which one of the parties is represented by George W. Weaver or anyone employed in his office, Wesley Benjamin Weaver or anyone employed in his office, then that case shall be assigned to either Judge Bradley or Judge Mercier on an alternating basis. The next case in which one of the parties is not represented by George W. Weaver or anyone employed in his office; Wesley Benjamin Weaver or anyone employed in his office, shall then be assigned to Judge Weaver.

In the event the next case in line for Judge Mercier is a case in which one of the parties is represented by David Ralston or anyone employed in his office, the case shall be assigned to Judge Weaver or Judge Bradley on an alternating basis. The next case in line in which one of the parties is not represented by David Ralston or anyone employed in his office shall be assigned to Judge Mercier.

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

A separate rotating system will be maintained for death penalty cases with Judge Weaver being one, Judge Bradley being two and Judge Mercier being three.

2. All cases filed in Juvenile Court shall be assigned to Chief Juvenile Judge John Worcester, unless otherwise ordered. All truancy cases filed in Pickens County shall be

assigned to Judge Brenda S. Weaver.

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. Brenda S. Weaver, Chief Judge of the Superior Courts, Appalachian Judicial Circuit, Roger E. Bradley, Superior Court Judge, Appalachian Judicial Circuit, Amanda H. Mercier, Superior Court Judge, Appalachian Judicial Circuit and John E. Worcester, Chief Judge, Juvenile Court, Appalachian Judicial Circuit mutually request the permanent judicial assistance of the other, in accordance with O.C.G.A. 15-1-9.1(2)(D), for the following reasons:

The Appalachian Judicial Circuit is a circuit consisting of three superior court judges and one fulltime juvenile judge and one part-time Juvenile Judge. 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)(D), 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, Judge John E. Worcester will preside over Child Support Enforcement Actions, Petitions for Temporary Protective Orders in Family Violence cases, and all other family law cases in which both parties are representing themselves or any other case that he may

hear by designation. Said cases shall have no jurisdictional separation from superior court, and no separate official docket need be kept.

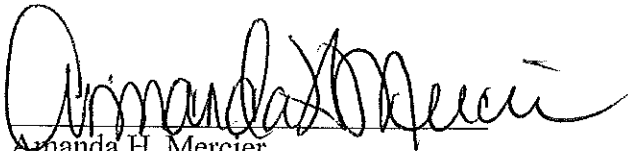
SO ORDERED, this 31 day of March, 2011.



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



Roger E. Bradley
Judge of Superior Courts
Appalachian Judicial Circuit



Amanda H. Mercier
Judge of Superior Courts
Appalachian Judicial Circuit



John E. Worcester
Chief Judge of Juvenile Courts
Appalachian Judicial Circuit