

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 4.910-5/17

IN RE: CREATION OF CIRCUIT CRIMINAL DIVISION "Z"
AND TRANSFER OF 450 PENDING FELONY CASES

In the interest of judicial economy and to increase efficiency, a seventh Felony Division is created and will be titled Division "Z".

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority conferred by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** as follows:

A. CREATION OF DIVISION

1. Effective May 11, 2017, the Clerk and Comptroller shall create Circuit Criminal Division "Z" in its case maintenance system ("Showcase") for the sole purpose of scheduling cases.
2. The Clerk and Comptroller shall not assign any newly filed cases to this division until 450 cases have been transferred to Division "Z" in accordance with Paragraph B below.

B. TRANSFER OF PENDING FELONY CASES

1. Court Administration's criminal case manager will identify approximately 75 cases from each of the six circuit criminal divisions to be transferred to Division "Z" for a total of approximately 450 transferred cases.
2. The criminal case manager and/or judicial assistant will prepare for the divisional judge an Order to Transfer for each of the identified cases.
3. Upon receipt of the electronically filed Order to Transfer, the Clerk and Comptroller will reassign the identified case to Division "Z".
4. Where a transferred case has a hearing scheduled in the original division at the time of the transfer, the hearing date will remain as scheduled until July 10, 2017; any hearing scheduled beyond July 10, 2017 shall take place in Division "Z".
5. Where a transferred case is set for trial in the original division at the time of transfer, the trial date will remain as scheduled unless the trial is scheduled after July 10, 2017; if the trial is scheduled after July 10, 2017, the trial will be heard in Division "Z".

6. A list of the transferred cases will be maintained by the Administrative Office of the Court.

C. ASSIGNMENT OF NEWLY FILED CASES

Division Z will be activated in the Clerk's case maintenance system ("Showcase") on July 10, 2017.

Upon transfer of the 450 pending felony cases in accordance with paragraph B above, the Clerk and Comptroller shall assign newly filed cases in the following manner:

- Division "R" twelve and half percent (12.5%)
- Division "S" twelve and half percent (12.5%)
- Division "U" twelve and half percent (12.5%)
- Division "V" twelve and half percent (12.5%)
- Division "W" twelve and half percent (12.5%)
- Division "X" twelve and half percent (12.5%)
- Division "Z" twenty-five percent (25%)

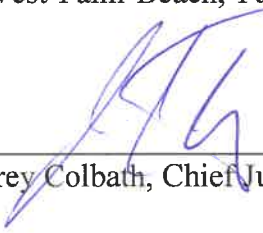
D. MONITORING OF CASELOADS

1. The Administrative Office of the Court will monitor the pending caseloads for each of the Circuit Criminal Divisions to ensure equity amongst the divisions.
2. When Division "Z" has received 657 cases (which includes the approximately 450 transferred cases and 207 newly filed cases) the Administrative Office of the Court will notify the Clerk and Comptroller that the case assignment percentages are equal and newly filed cases are to be allocated randomly amongst the seven felony divisions in accordance with AO 4.101.

E. POST CONVICTION MOTIONS AND VIOLATION OF PROBATION MATTERS

All Post Conviction Motions and Violation of Probation matters filed in Felony Division "T" shall be reassigned to Division "Z".

DONE and SIGNED in Chambers at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida,
this 11 day of May, 2017



Jeffrey Colbath, Chief Judge