

Docket Changes and Other Moves

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Circuit Court Administrator



The New Year has arrived and with it several changes related to docket, courtroom, referee and criminal call assignments. What follows is a description of those changes to help make your navigation a bit easier.

Let's begin with the docket. Judge Edward Sosnick recently took over the family docket formerly assigned to Judge James Alexander, who took over the civil/criminal docket previously assigned to Judge Sosnick. The docket switch was done by mutual agreement of both judges and was effective on January 1, 2011.

For those who practice before Judges Sosnick and/or Alexander, please be advised that the judges are keeping some

cases from their previous dockets. Reassignment orders were sent to all parties advising them of the judge switch. If you had a pending case before either Judge Sosnick or Judge Alexander and didn't receive a reassignment order, it may be that your case is being retained by the originally assigned judge. Please check with chambers if you have any questions.

Though they switched dockets, please note that Judges Sosnick and Alexander have not changed courtrooms. Judge Sosnick remains in courtroom 2B and Judge Alexander remains in courtroom 1B. Judge Alexander's criminal call is on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Judge Mary Ellen Brennan has left the West Wing Extension and moved to the East Wing. She is now located in courtroom 2G, the courtroom in which Judge McDonald was located during his tenure on the bench. Judge Brennan retains her Family Division docket and she and her staff retain all contact information such as phone numbers, fax numbers and e-mail addresses.

In September Judge Brennan assumed oversight of the juvenile drug treatment court, succeeding Judge Sosnick, who had presided over the court since its inception in 2001. Judge Brennan had been presiding over the juvenile treatment court in Judge Sosnick's courtroom but with her move to the East Wing she will now hold court in her courtroom – 2G. Juvenile treatment court sessions will continue to take place at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Probate Judge Eugene Moore retired on January 1. In addition to his probate docket, Judge Moore also heard Family Division cases including domestic matters. One Friend of the Court referee team was assigned to Judge Moore. Upon his retirement that team was reassigned to Judge Sosnick. Judge Moore's pending Family Division cases (as of January 1, 2011) have been reassigned to Judge Sosnick.

Given the docket switches of Judges Sosnick and Alexander and the move to courtroom 2G by Judge Brennan, several Friend of the Court referees have been relocated for the Wednesday morning motion call. Here is a brief description of the changes involving Friend of the Court referees.

The referees assigned to Judge Sosnick are Ms. Suzanne Bolton, Mr. Arthur Spears and Ms. Alisa Martin. Referees Bolton and Spears were previously assigned to Judge Alexander. Referee Martin was previously assigned to Judge Moore.

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Referee Bolton now holds her motion call in Judge Sosnick's jury room (courtroom 2B). Referee Spears continues to hold his motion call in Judge Alexander's jury room (courtroom 1B). Referee Martin now holds her motion call in Judge Phyllis McMillen's jury room (courtroom 3C).

Judge Brennan's referees – Ms. Kittie Fairbrother, Ms. Libby Blanchard and Mr. Mark Sherbow – have moved, given Judge Brennan's relocation to courtroom 2G. Referees Fairbrother and Blanchard now hold their motion calls in the Jury Assembly Room, located at the west end of the hallway leading from the 1st floor (north) entrance to the courthouse. Referee Sherbow now holds his motion call in Judge Brennan's jury room (courtroom 2G).

Probate Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti has moved from the courthouse East Wing to courtroom W2 in the West Wing Extension. The Friend of the Court referees assigned to Judge Pezzetti – Ms. Betty Lowenthal and Ms. Evanne Dietz – have moved their motion calls to the West Wing Extension, 1st floor. Please contact chambers for the specific conference rooms in which Referees Lowenthal and Dietz will hold their motion calls as this information was not available at the time this article was written.

One other Friend of the Court referee move of note – Referee Ronald Foon remains assigned to Judge Cheryl Matthews, but the location of his motion call on Wednesday mornings has changed. He is now located in Judge Shalina Kumar's jury room (courtroom 1C).

As many of you know, Judge John McDonald retired in December. His criminal and civil cases were reassigned to the 13 judges in the Civil/Criminal Division. Reassignment orders were distributed a few weeks ago, so each party should be advised as to which judge his or her case was reassigned. Please contact the Case Management Office if you have any questions about the reassignment of Judge McDonald's docket.

With Judge McDonald's retirement comes the reassignment of the day and time of his criminal call to Judge Martha Anderson. Judge Anderson's criminal call had been on Monday afternoon but is now on Monday morning beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Lastly, there are no changes in Chief Judge Nanci Grant's judicial leadership team, but with all of the changes mentioned above, the arrival of a new year, and the recent appointment of Judge Linda Hallmark as Chief Judge of the Probate Court, I want to review the judicial leadership appointments again so that there is no confusion.

As mentioned, Judge Nanci Grant continues to serve as Chief Judge of the Circuit Court. Judge Shalina Kumar serves as Chief Judge Pro Tempore. Judge Rae Lee Chabot serves as Presiding Judge of the Business Division, Judge Michael Warren serves as Presiding Judge of the Civil/Criminal Division, and Probate Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti serves as Presiding Judge of the Family Division.

I think that covers the docket changes and moves for 2011. You are always invited to contact the Circuit Court if you have any questions or need additional information. We look forward to working with you in the year ahead. Happy New Year to all!

Until next time...

Update on the OCBA's Pro Bono Mentor Match Program

In October the OCBA launched the new Pro Bono Mentor Match Program. Below is the list of both mentors and mentees who have signed up to be a part of the program as of December 15, 2010. For more information about the program check out the "Member News" section of the OCBA Web site at www.ocba.org

Pro Bono Mentor Program – Mentors

Peter M. Alter	Julie L. Kosovec
Leif K. Anderson	Leslie H. Kutinsky
Earlene R. Baggett-Hayes	James P. Lampertius
Michael L. Bars	Sheldon G. Larky
Randall M. Blau	James W. Low
Jordan S. Bolton	Betty L. Lowenthal
Barry L. Brickner	Chiara F. Mattieson
Cynthia E. Brazzil	Donald E. McGinnis Jr.
Elizabeth Luckenbach Brown	Maureen M. McGinnis
Gerald P. Cavellier	Moheeb H. Murray
Michael W. Colton	Kenneth F. Neuman
Thomas W. Cranmer	Frederick A. Neumark
James P. Cunningham	John R. Nussbaumer
Daniel C. Devine	James J. Parks
Brian D. Einhorn	Thomas G. Plunkett
Richard Galat	Kristen L. Robinson
Gerald J. Gleeson II	Thomas J. Ryan
Dean M. Googasian	Kurt E. Schnelz
George A. Googasian	J. Robert Sterling
Judith S. Gracey	Mark A. Stern
Jennifer M. Grieco	Laurel Stuart-Fink
Hanley M. Gurwin	Michael J. Sullivan
David L. Haron	John C. Talpos
Thomas H. Howlett	Victoria A. Valentine
Michael W. Hutson	Jamie K. Warrow
Jon H. Kingsepp	Starla D. Zehr

Pro Bono Mentor Program – Mentees

Aaron Boria	Emily Zehnder Lockard
Syeda Davidson	Anthony H. McClerkin
Johnetta Q. Fisher-Brady	Brenda Murphy
Jacqueline Gardner	Naomi Oglesby
Renea Gillum	Stefanie Rossi
Krystal D. Johnson	Guatam B. Singh
William F. Jurczak	Patrick A. Stallworth
Lauren A. Laing	Jason J. Thomas
Craig Lavoie	Carlos Vicent