

ORDER AMENDING  
DANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
ROTATION PLAN 2021-2023 AND  
LOCAL RULE 205(4)

## ORDER

Whereas, on July 7, 2020, Chief Judge Thomas Vale, Fifth Judicial Administrative District, approved the Dane County Circuit Court Rotation Plan for August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2023. Under the order, the civil/family/probate draw begins February 1, the criminal draw begins April 1, and the juvenile draw begins June 1.

Whereas, since March of 2020, the COVID-19 Global Pandemic has had a significant effect on the operations of court systems. Our courts are experiencing a backlog of cases, most notably in criminal cases. In order to most effectively and efficiently address the issues of the backlog in cases, the Chief Judge, under SCR 70.19(a) and (b), determined it is in the best interest of judicial administration to amend the 2021-2023 rotation plan for Dane County Circuit Court.

Whereas, on March 17, 2021, Chief Judge Thomas Vale, approved the Dane County Circuit Court Amendment to the 2021-2023 Rotation Plan to allow for the administrative transfer of CF/CM/CT cases.

Whereas, on December 8, 2021, the Dane County Circuit Court proposed more amendments to its 2021-2023 rotation plan and additional procedures to continue its efforts in addressing the criminal caseload. The additional procedures include relieving some of the criminal branches of duty week coverage and small claims coverage, and establishing stipulated plea dates where other branches will provide coverage. The court has also decided to permanently reallocate judicial resources and establish a 7<sup>th</sup> criminal branch. Therefore, for a limited period of time designated by the Dane County Circuit Court, the following rotation and assignment changes will be in place.

IT IS ORDERED the Dane County Circuit Court Rotation Plan for August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2023, is further temporarily amended to assist with the criminal caseload.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED Branch 2 and Branch 13 will stop drawing cases on December 13, 2021 until January 3, 2022, at which time both branches will start drawing criminal cases.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the civil/family/probate cases assigned to Branch 2 from February 1, 2021 to December 10, 2021, shall be randomly reassigned to the other civil and juvenile branches, with the exception of Branch 13.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED Branches 5, 11, 12, and 14 will not be assigned new criminal cases unless the branch already has a pending case involving the defendant. Assignment of new criminal cases will resume at the conclusion of the period of time designated for addressing the criminal caseload.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the criminal division branches and Branch 13 will not be assigned small claims coverage in 2022.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the clerk of circuit court will execute any administrative transfers using the judicial assignment program.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED this order may be subject to further revision.

Dated this 13 day of December, 2021.

/s/electronically signed V.L.Bailey-Rihn  
Valerie Bailey-Rihn, Presiding Judge  
Dane County Circuit Court

  
Thomas Vale, Chief Judge  
Fifth Judicial District