

# 2026 ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER #2

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FAYETTE COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

### ORDER AMENDING CRIMINAL CASE ASSIGNMENT STANDING ORDER REQUIRED BY UNIFORM SUPERIOR COURT RULE 3.1 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

Based upon the retirement of the Honorable W. Fletcher Sams (“WFS”) and the investiture of the Honorable Matthew M. McCord (“MMM”), the Superior Court of Fayette County, Georgia, hereby amends the Criminal Case Assignment Standing Order entered on December 9, 2024. This Order shall apply to all criminal actions filed on or after May 21, 2026 and shall immediately be filed and recorded by the Clerk of Court.

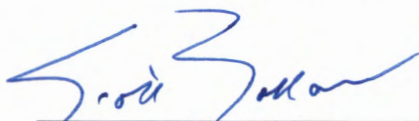
All matters currently assigned to Judge Sams (“WFS”) shall be re-assigned to Judge McCord (“MMM”). It is the intent of this Order that criminal cases shall be distributed so that 1/3 of the criminal cases are assigned to Judge McCord, 1/3 are assigned to Judge Ballard, and 1/3 are assigned to Judge Kreuziger. Fayette County Drug Court cases shall be assigned to Judge Miller.

The Court has previously provided to the Clerk a permutated rotation of judge selection, titled “2025 Criminal Case Judge Assignment Rotation” (hereinafter “2025 Criminal Rotation”). The Clerk shall use the 2025 Criminal Rotation to assign all newly filed criminal matters. The Clerk or deputy clerk shall assign each case a sequential case number bearing the assigned judge’s initials in the strict sequence received and in the strict sequence prescribed, in handwriting only, except as specifically otherwise stated herein. Where the 2025 Criminal Rotation indicates a case will be assigned to “WFS,” the Clerk shall, instead, assign the matter to “MMM.”

All other provisions of the Criminal Case Assignment Standing Order Required by Uniform Superior Court Rule 3.1 Effective January 1, 2025 and filed on December 9, 2024 that are not in contradiction with this Order shall remain in full force and effect.

*(SIGNATURES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE)*

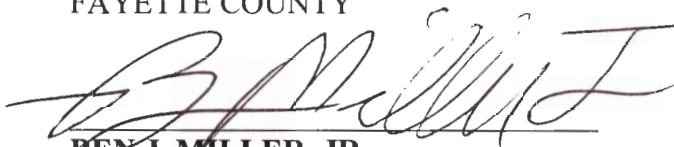
SO ORDERED this 28 day of May, 2026.



**SCOTT L. BALLARD**  
CHIEF JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT  
FAYETTE COUNTY



for **BENJAMIN D. COKER**  
JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT  
FAYETTE COUNTY *with permission*



**BEN J. MILLER, JR.**  
JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT  
FAYETTE COUNTY



**RHONDA B. KREUZIGER**  
JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT  
FAYETTE COUNTY



**MATTHEW M. McCORD**  
JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT  
FAYETTE COUNTY

SHEILA STUDDARD  
CLERK OF COURT  
FAYETTE COUNTY, GA

2026 MAY 28 AM 10:31

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF  
SUPERIOR, STATE OR  
MAGISTRATE COURT



**OATH OF JUDGE OF SUPERIOR COURT**

STATE OF GEORGIA     )  
COUNTY OF FULTON    )

I, *Matthew M. McCord*, a citizen of *Pike County, Georgia*  
and being an employee of *The Superior Courts of Georgia* and the  
recipient of public funds for services rendered as such employee, do hereby solemnly swear and affirm that  
I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Georgia.

I do further swear that I will discharge all the duties lawfully required of me as Judge of the Superior Court of the Griffin Judicial Circuit, according to the best of my ability and understanding.

I do further swear and affirm that I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due this State, or any political subdivision or authority thereof; that I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, nor of either of the several states, nor of any foreign state; and that I am otherwise qualified to hold said office, according to the Constitution and Laws of Georgia; and that I will support the Constitutions of the United States and of this State.

I do further swear that I will administer justice without respect to person and do equal rights to the poor and the rich and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as Judge of the Superior Courts of this state, according to the best of my ability and understanding, and agreeably to the laws of the Constitution of this State and the Constitution of the United States.

SO HELP ME GOD!

.....  
*Matthew M. McCord*  
.....  
Signature

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this     )

21<sup>ST</sup> day of ..... *May* ....., 20*26* )

.....  
*B. P. L.*  
..... )  
GOVERNOR



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

That the Honorable Matthew M. McCord is hereby appointed Superior Court Judge of the Griffin Judicial Circuit to succeed the Honorable W. Fletcher Sams, for a term of office ending December 31, 2028.

THIS 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MAY 2026.

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GOVERNOR



## LOYALTY OATH

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF FULTON

I, *Matthew M. McCord*, a citizen of *Pike County, Georgia* and being an employee of *the Superior Courts of Georgia* and the recipient of public funds for services rendered as such employee, do hereby solemnly swear and affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Georgia.

SO HELP ME GOD!

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the )

*21<sup>st</sup>* day of *May* 20*26* )

GOVERNOR )

*Bill*

*Matthew M. McCord*

Signature