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## ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN

**37th District**  
**Composed of the Following Counties**

**MILLER & LAFAYETTE**

or

**District Court of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ County, Arkansas**

**1. JUDGES.**

The 37th District Court is a **STATE** district court served by **ONE (1)** judge.

**Judge** **Division Number**

**Thomas A. Potter**

Are exchange agreements with other district judges utilized?

Yes  
 No

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 18, at the request of the majority of the district judges of a district court, with the concurrence of a majority of the circuit judges of a judicial circuit, the administrative judge of the judicial circuit may designate one or more licensed attorneys to serve as a smalls claims magistrate to preside over the small claims division of the district court.

A small claims magistrate shall possess the same qualifications as a district court judge. The appointment shall be filed in writing and filed with the District Court Clerk.

Has a small claims magistrate has been designated by the administrative judge of the judicial circuit?

Yes  
 No

Small Claim Magistrate

County

City Designated as Department

NOT APPLICABLE

**2. DEPARTMENTS.**

The statutory authority for the organization and designation of this district court is found is found at A.C.A. **§§16-17-1110(29)(A) and 16-17-1110(29)(B)(i)-(iv).**

The judge(s) serve(s) in the statutorily designated departments of the court as follows:

<u>Judge</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>City Designated as Department</u>
Thomas A. Potter	Miller	City of Texarkana Department Bi-State Justice Building 100 N. State Line Avenue Texarkana, AR 75502
Thomas A. Potter	Miller	Miller County Department Miller Co. Correctional Center 2300 East Street Texarkana, AR 71854
Thomas A. Potter	Lafayette	City of Lewisville Department 110 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Lewisville, AR 71845
Thomas A. Potter	Lafayette	City of Stamps Department 207 E. Antigo Stamps, AR 71860
Thomas A. Potter	Lafayette	City of Bradley Department 410 Pullman Street Bradley, AR 71826

Consolidation of City Courts with District Courts

Pursuant to A.C.A. §16-17-1202, all city courts were consolidated with district courts on January 1, 2012, and former city courts became known as departments of the district court. If a town or city is no longer operating as a department of the district court, a copy

of the local ordinance abolishing the city as a department of the court must be provided to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Are all towns or cities statutorily designated as departments still operating as departments of the district court?

Yes  
 No

<u>Town / City Abolished as Department</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
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A copy of the local ordinance abolishing the department of the district court has been attached.

**3. OTHER JURISDICTIONAL AREAS.**

The following cities and towns have police departments but have not been designated as statutory departments of the district court. Pursuant to A.C.A. §16-17-1203, these cities and towns contribute to the operational expenses of the district court and file cases in the district court.

<u>City / Town</u>	<u>Department Where Cases are Filed / Heard</u>
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NOT APPLICABLE

**4. COURT SESSIONS AND TYPES OF CASE BY SUBJECT MATTER  
(Criminal, Traffic, Civil and Small Claims).**

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 18, each department of a district court shall hear cases in all of the subject matter divisions.

Sessions of the court are generally scheduled on the following days of the week at the following times:

<u>Judge</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Type of Case</u>
Thomas A. Potter	Texarkana	Monday	9:00 am	Arraignment (Jail)
Thomas A. Potter	Texarkana	Tue. & Thu.	1:00 pm	Criminal Trials
Thomas A. Potter	Texarkana	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue.	9:00 am	Arraignment

Thomas A. Potter Texarkana	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thu.	9:00 am	Arraignment
Thomas A. Potter Texarkana	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	9:00 am	Civil/Small Claims
Thomas A. Potter Miller County	Monday	1:00 pm	Criminal/Civil & Small Claims
Thomas A. Potter Lewisville	Wednesday	9:00 am	Criminal/Civil & Small Claims
Thomas A. Potter Bradley	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	9:00 am	Criminal/Civil & Small Claims
Thomas A. Potter Stamps	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	9:00 am	Criminal/Civil & Small Claims

#### Mandatory Holding of Court in Departments of a District Court

Pursuant to A.C.A. §16-17-138, sessions of court must be held at least one (1) time per month in each department unless mutually waived by the district court judge and the governing body of the city or town where the department is located.

Is court held in each town or city designated as a department of the district court at least one (1) time per month?

Yes  
 No

A written agreement waiving the mandatory holding of court for departments of a district court has been entered into and has been adopted by ordinance of the governing body of the city or town in which the department is located.

The ordinance(s) has/have been attached to this plan.

Based upon said written agreement, sessions of court for the \_\_\_\_\_ Department are held in the \_\_\_\_\_ Department.

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 18, a warrant docket shall be established within the criminal division. The docket shall be divided into a "search warrant docket," designated by the prefix "SW" and an "arrest warrant docket," designated by the prefix "AW." The warrant docket is used for warrants that have been returned either executed or unexecuted when a case file has not yet been opened. If a criminal case is subsequently opened, the information in the warrant docket related to the criminal case is transferred to it.

Has the warrant docket been established within the criminal division?

Yes  
 No

#### **5. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 18 REFERRALS FROM CIRCUIT COURT.**

Has the circuit court referred matters pursuant to Administrative Order No. 18 to be heard by a state district judge?

Yes  
 No

The following matters have been referred by the circuit court and have been included in the circuit court administrative plan:

Consent Jurisdiction. Upon the consent of all parties, the following types of cases are referred from circuit court:

Civil  
 Domestic Relations  
 Probate

Protective Orders.

Forcible Entry and Detainers / Unlawful Detainer.

Other Matters of an Emergency or Uncontested Nature Pending in Civil, Domestic Relations or Probate Division. ***Please describe the types of other matters referred below and the location where these matters are heard.***

<u>Type of Other Matters</u>	<u>Hearing Location</u>
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Other Matters, if Justification for the Reference and Procedures to be Employed are Sufficiently Demonstrated in the Circuit Court Administration Plan Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 14. ***Please describe the types of other matters referred below and the location where these matters are heard.***

<u>Type of Other Matters</u>	<u>Hearing Location</u>
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Criminal. The following duties are referred with respect to an investigation or prosecution of an offense lying within the exclusive jurisdiction of the circuit court:

- Issue Search Warrant Pursuant to Rule 13.1
- Issue Arrest Warrant Pursuant to Rule 7.1 or A.C.A. §16-81-104
- Issue Summons Pursuant to Rule 6.1
- Reasonable Cause Determinations Pursuant to Rule 4.1 (e)
- Conduct First Appearance Pursuant to Rule 8.1
- Appoint Counsel Pursuant to Rule 8.2
- Inform Defendant Pursuant to Rule 8.3
- Accept Plea of "Not Guilty" or "Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity"
- Conduct Pretrial Release Inquiry Rules 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3
- Conduct Preliminary Hearing Pursuant to A.C.A. §16-93-307

#### **Digital Audio Recording Equipment**

Is digital audio recording equipment utilized to make a verbatim record of matters referred from the circuit court?

- Yes
- No

Has the State District Court Digital Audio Recording Equipment Compliance Form been provided to the Administrative Office of the Courts?

- Yes
- No

#### **6. SPECIALTY COURTS.**

Does a district court judge preside over a specialty court program?

- Yes
- No

The following specialty courts are conducted:

<b>Type of Specialty Court</b>	<b>Location</b>
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a. Type of specialty docket and description of its operation:

- b. Statutory or legal authority on which it is based:
- c. Certification of compliance with all applicable sentencing laws, including assessment, collection and remittance of fines, fees, court costs, probation fees.
- d. Use of court resources. *[Describe the court team including prosecuting attorneys, public defenders, and health professionals; that each has been consulted in setting up the program and its operation; scheduling has been coordinated; and the necessary resources are available.]*
- e. Sources of funding:

This specialty court was established in the circuit court administrative plan, but the judicial circuit does not have a circuit judge who is available to administer the specialty court on a consistent basis. Accordingly, the administrative plan for the judicial circuit required by Administrative Order No. 14 of the Supreme Court designated a district court judge to administer this specialty court program.

## **7. OTHER PROGRAMS OR DOCKETS.**

Does a district court judge preside over other programs or dockets?

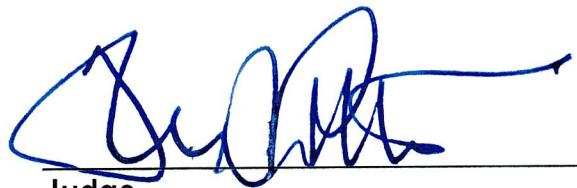
- Yes
- No

The following programs or dockets are administered:

<u>Name of Docket</u>	<u>Location</u>
a. Type of specialty docket and description of its operation:	
b. Statutory or legal authority on which it is based:	
c. Certification of compliance with all applicable sentencing laws, including assessment, collection and remittance of fines, fees, court costs, probation fees.	
d. Use of court resources. <i>[Describe the court team including prosecuting attorneys, public defenders, and health professionals; that each has been consulted in setting up the program and its operation; scheduling has been coordinated; and the necessary resources are available.]</i>	
e. Sources of funding:	

**7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Administrative Plan is effective **January 1, 2026**.



Judge

Dated: June 25, 2025