

Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC17-96

IN RE: 2018 FLORIDA JUDICIAL COLLEGE

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The Florida Court Education Council has developed a series of educational programs to assist in preparing every new judge for judicial service. Operating under the auspices of the Florida Judicial College (FJC), these programs include a trial skills workshop and orientation program in January (Phase I), a curriculum focusing on complex substantive and procedural matters in March (Phase II), and a year-long mentor program. The 2018 FJC Phase I program is scheduled for January 7-12, 2018. The 2018 FJC Phase II program is scheduled for March 18-23, 2018.

Additionally, rule 2.320(2) of the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration establishes minimum requirements for continuing judicial education, including requirements for new judges. This administrative order implements that rule and sets the specific requirements for new judges attending FJC in 2018. This order also sets the requirements for new magistrates and child support enforcement hearing officers attending FJC in 2018.

New Trial Court Judges

To ensure that new trial court judges have the essential information and skills to fulfill their judicial duties, all trial court judges appointed or elected after the Phase I program in January 2017 who have never previously attended the Phase I program as a newly sitting judge, are required to participate in the 2018 Phase I program. All trial court judges elected or appointed after the Phase II program in March 2017 who have never previously attended both Phases I and II as a newly sitting judge, are required to participate in both the 2018 Phase I and Phase II programs.

New Appellate Court Judges

All district court of appeal judges appointed after the New Appellate Judges' Program in 2017 are required to attend the next New Appellate Judges' Program, which will be held on April 3-6, 2018.

In addition, every appellate court judge appointed after the 2017 FJC Phase I program who has never served as a trial court judge is required to attend the 2018 FJC Phase I program in January of 2018.

New General Magistrates and Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officers

To ensure that new general magistrates and child support enforcement hearing officers also have the essential information and skills to fulfill their duties, all general magistrates and child support enforcement hearing officers are required

to attend both phases of FJC in their first year of service as a general magistrate or child support enforcement hearing officer. However, magistrates or child support enforcement hearing officers who have previously attended Phase I of FJC are not required to attend Phase I a second time. Likewise, magistrates or child support enforcement hearing officers who have previously attended Phase II of FJC are not required to attend Phase II a second time.

Mentor Judges

All new trial court and appellate judges should be assigned a mentor judge from their respective tier within 48 hours of appointment or election. The Supreme Court takes the mentoring component of FJC very seriously, and expects the judiciary as a whole to recognize it as an integral, mandatory part of the FJC experience.

County Court Judges Elevated to the Circuit Court Bench

All county court judges appointed or elected to the circuit court bench are required to attend either the entire Fundamentals program at Phase II of FJC in the track most relevant to their new assignment, or a minimum of four full days at the Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies, in subject areas focusing on the the judge's new assignment. The fundamentals portion of the 2018 FJC Phase II program will be held March 20-22, 2018. The 2018 Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies will be held May 29 through June 1, 2018.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on November 7, 2017.

Jorge Labarga
AOSC17-96 11/07/17

Chief Justice Jorge Labarga
AOSC17-96 11/07/17

ATTEST:

John A. Tomasino
AOSC17-96 11/07/17

John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court
AOSC17-96 11/07/17

