



THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF MICHIGAN

MICHAEL F. SAPALA
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DOCKET DIRECTIVE 1999-02

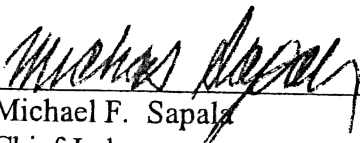
STATE OF MICHIGAN
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUBJECT: **Docket Successor Policies and Processes**

This Directive, issued pursuant to MCR 8.111, delineates the policies and processes governing the transfer of dockets between judges within the Court.

1. When a judge leaves the Court, his or her docket of pending and post-judgment matters shall be reassigned, in its entirety, to a "docket successor". *
2. When a judge remains with the Court but transfers to another division, his or her docket of pending and post judgment matters shall be reassigned, in its entirety, to a docket successor.
3. When a judge leaves a division and subsequently returns to that division, he or she will assume an available docket, in its entirety.
4. If a judge switches between a criminal "trial" docket and a criminal "AOI" docket, all pending and post-judgment matters, except cases awaiting sentencing, will be reassigned to the docket successor. All cases awaiting sentencing will remain assigned to the original judge for sentencing. After sentencing, these cases will be reassigned to the docket successor.
5. All post-appeal matters shall be assigned to either the original judge or the docket successor as dictated by an appellate court order, court rule, or statute.
6. Any cases returning to the Court without an apparent docket successor shall be blind drawn by the Presiding Judge of the appropriate division.

* A docket successor is not always a judicial successor. Judicial succession is exclusively due to the filling of a vacancy on the Bench, either by election or appointment. Docket succession may be due to the filling of a vacancy or the reassignment of a judge to different division or docket type within a division.



Michael F. Sapala
Chief Judge
Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan

Date: 2/5/99