

Supreme Court of Kentucky

2022-67

ORDER

IN RE: RESCINDING SPECIAL JUDGE APPOINTMENT IN THE 36TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT

On February 14, 2011, the Chief Justice entered an order under Section 110(5)(b) of the Kentucky Constitution temporarily assigning the Honorable Dwight Stacy Marshall, 31st Judicial Circuit, Division 3, Floyd County, as a special judge of the 36th Judicial Circuit and District, Knott and Magoffin counties, with jurisdiction over all family law matters. The order, which was effective January 15, 2010, *nunc pro tunc*, was the continuation of a pilot project that had been in effect since 2001.¹

Since its inception, the family court pilot project in the 36th Judicial Circuit and District has been by order of the Chief Justice. The General Assembly has never approved a family court for Knott and Magoffin counties, and the voters in Knott and Magoffin counties have never elected the judge who presides over their family law matters. Moreover, the combined workload for the family court in Floyd, Knott and Magoffin counties has consistently been one of the highest family court workloads in the state. Because of this, and at the request of Judge Marshall, the Chief Justice finds that the pilot project should be terminated as of April 30, 2023.

¹ See *In Re: Order Assigning Special Judge*, entered by Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert on August 14, 2002, effective March 1, 2001, *nunc pro tunc*.

Accordingly, the Chief Justice hereby ORDERS that the February 11, 2011, order assigning the Honorable Dwight Stacy Marshall as special judge of the 36th Judicial Circuit and District is rescinded, effective April 30, 2023. All matters previously assigned to family court will be reassigned to the Honorable Dennis B. Prater, 36th Judicial District, and the Honorable Kim Cornett Childers, 36th Judicial Circuit.

This order shall be effective April 30, 2023.

Entered this 21st day of December 2022.


CHIEF JUSTICE