

IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 10.03

**BENCH/BAR COMMITTEE**

**In order to provide** for the requirements of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, with regard to the establishment of a Bench/Bar Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court of Florida's Amended Administrative Order entitled In Re: Establishment of Local Bench/Bar Committees, dated April 29, 1998, calls for the establishment of a local bench/bar committee in each judicial circuit; and

**WHEREAS**, in interest of promoting professionalism, a Bench/Bar Committee permits the bench and the bar to express concern for the personal and professional capabilities of any lawyer or judge in the Eighth Judicial Circuit; it is hereby

**ORDERED that,**

The Eighth Judicial Circuit Bench/Bar Committee is reconvened pursuant to the following rules:

1. **Committee Members**. The Bench/Bar Committee shall consist of not less than 9 nor more than 12 members in addition to the Chair. The Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit shall be the Chair of the Committee. The next most senior circuit judge shall be the Vice-Chair of the Committee. If there is no other circuit judge on the Committee, then the most senior county judge shall be the Vice-Chair of the Committee. The Committee shall consist of members selected and appointed by the Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit. The Chief Judge shall take care to select members that represent a cross-section of the circuit. The Chief Judge shall consider such matters as geographic location, discipline, reputation, and bar activities.

2. **Terms**. Members shall serve for a term of 3 years. The terms of the members shall be staggered.

3. **Confidentiality.** The names of members of the Bench or Bar, and the matters discussed regarding their professional behavior, shall not be discussed by any member of the Committee except at Committee meetings, and in conducting necessary investigation, and as required to communicate concerns of the Committee to the subject of Bench/Bar Committee report.

4. **Meetings.** The Bench/Bar Committee shall meet at 1:30 p.m. after the monthly Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association luncheons on a quarterly basis with additional meetings scheduled as needed. The Chair of the Committee shall request that the time and place of meetings of the Bench/Bar Committee be announced by the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association.

5. **Access.** All attorneys, judges, and other interested parties shall have the right to bring matters of “professional behavior” to the attention of the Bench/Bar Committee. The term “professional behavior” shall include, but not be limited to, matters of professional behavior, physical or mental disabilities which affect the ability of the member of the Bench or Bar to render professional services in his or her capacity as a lawyer or judge, and any other matter which might be of assistance to any lawyer or judge.

6. **Reports.** Any matters made known to the Bench/Bar Committee shall be rendered in the form of a “report” rather than in the form of a complaint. Reports may be made to any member of the Bench/Bar Committee, or to the Committee as a whole. It is not necessary that reports be made in writing. A member of the Committee to whom a report is made may call the attention of the Committee to any matter of professional concern disclosed in the report as to any member of the Bench or Bar within the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

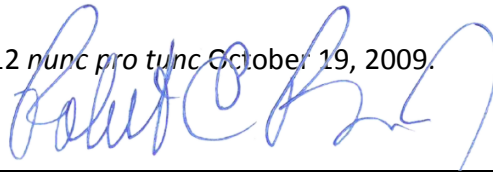
7. **Action.** The Bench/Bar Committee shall discuss any report made and shall take any action found to be appropriate including but not limited to taking no action, taking any informal action agreed upon by the Committee, referring the matter to the Florida Bar or to the Judicial Qualification Commission.

8. **Responsibility.** The Committee is charged with the responsibility of creating a local option to encourage high standards of conduct and professionalism through open communication, dialogue, and mentoring whenever possible.

This Administrative Order rescinds Administrative Order 8.470 dated August 24, 1998.

This order renumbers and reformats prior Administrative Order No. 8.470(A) entitled "Bench/Bar Committee."

**ORDERED ON** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2012 *nunc pro tunc* October 19, 2009.



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Robert E. Roundtree, Jr., Chief Judge