

**THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**CASE NO. 09-2
(Court Administration)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 09-16**

**IN RE: DESIGNATION OF CIRCUIT
COURT CRIMINAL DIVISION JUDGES
TO PRESIDE OVER "JIMMY RYCE"
CIVIL COMMITMENT HEARINGS AT
THE RICHARD E. GERSTEIN
JUSTICE BUILDING**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 394.916, Florida Statutes, procedures for the involuntary civil commitment of sexually violent predators (commonly referred to as "Jimmy Ryce" Commitment), procedures are set forth for the handling of such civil commitments; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the involuntary commitments being subject to certain civil procedures, the preceding matter involving the persons who were convicted as sexually violent predators, was presided over by a judge in the Circuit Court Criminal Division located at the Richard E. Gerstein Justice Building ("REG"); and

WHEREAS, historically, it has been the practice of the Eleventh Circuit for the Jimmy Ryce Commitment hearings ("Ryce Hearings") to be presided over by the judge in the Criminal Division wherein the criminal matter was handled at the REG; and

WHEREAS, the convicted sexually violent predators, as respondents in the Ryce Hearings, have to be confined to secure holding facilities while awaiting their Ryce Hearings; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, since the REG has such holding facilities, for security purposes, the Ryce Hearings should be held at the REG; and

WHEREAS, in view of the proximity of the offices of the State Attorney and the Public Defender to the REG, for logistical purposes, the Ryce Hearings should be conducted at the REG; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that for the efficient and proper administration of justice, as well as, the consistency in the manner in which the Jimmy Ryce Commitment proceedings are assigned, the procedure for such assignments should be formalized;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, under Rule 2.215 of the Judicial Administration Rules, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

1. Involuntary civil commitment proceedings for sexually violent predators shall be assigned to the Circuit Court Criminal Division wherein the criminal matters were handled at the Richard E. Gerstein Justice Building ("REG").
2. Accordingly, the petition for the involuntary civil commitment ("Ryce Hearings") shall be filed with the Clerk of the Courts at the REG and assigned to the appropriate Criminal Division.
3. The judge presiding over the Ryce Hearings shall hold such hearings at the REG.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami-Dade, Florida, this _____ day of _____, 2009.

**JOSEPH P. FARINA, CHIEF JUDGE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**