



ASSOCIATE JUSTICE  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



JUDICIAL BRANCH

**JUDICIAL ORDER**  
**No. 5 (FIVE)**  
**NOVEMBER 7, A.D. 2012**

Exercising the authority and powers granted to the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia, under Article 75 of the Liberian Constitution (1986) to prescribe rules deemed by the Court as necessary for the facilitation and proper discharge of the functions of courts in the Republic; and

**Whereas**, section 3.9, title 17, Judiciary Law (1972) further authorizes the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia to assign "additional circuit judge to any circuit when the Chief Justice determines that the assignment of additional circuit judge will "aid the prompt disposition of Judicial business"; and

**Further considering** that section 3.10 of the Judiciary Law also provides for the assignment of a circuit judge to any circuit along with the resident judge and that the two circuit judges shall, concurrently, "*have authority to act on all matters*" coming before the court; and

**Concerned** that the number of cases coming before our courts are ever increasing and, if this grave challenge of access to justice is not quickly addressed, could reach dire proportions, with serious consequences for the entire justice system in Liberia;



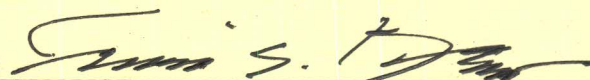
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

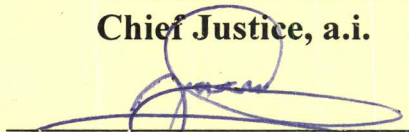


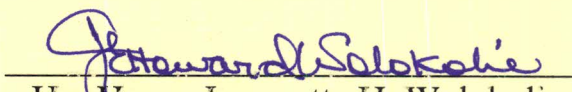
JUDICIAL BRANCH

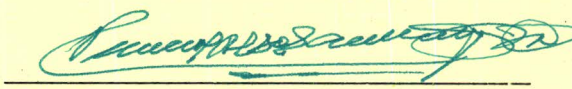
Now therefore, consistent both with the laws in vogue and our commitment to addressing this challenge, the Chief Justice, beginning this November Term, A.D. 2012, and whenever necessary, shall assign additional circuit judge/judges to any circuit within the bailiwick of the Republic to aid in the speedy disposition of cases pending before the said circuit court (s) consistent with the relevant provisions of the Judiciary Law.

**THIS JUDICIAL ORDER SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY AFTER APPROVAL BY THE SUPREME COURT. AND IT SO ORDERED.**

Signed:   
His Honor Francis S. Korkpor, Sr.  
Chief Justice, a.i.

  
His Honor Kabineh M. Ja'neh  
Associate Justice

  
Her Honor Jamesetta H. Wolokolie  
Associate Justice

  
His Honor Philip A.Z. Banks, III  
Associate Justice

Sections 3.9 and 3.10, title 17, Judiciary Law (1972), as referenced, are hereto attached to this Judicial Order 5.





ASSOCIATE JUSTICE  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



JUDICIAL BRANCH

### **Section 3.9: Assignment of Judges to Circuits.**

*"Each Circuit Judge, except the Judges commissioned as Relieving Judges, shall preside as Resident Judge over the Circuit Court of the Circuit for which he was appointed. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall assign, on a rotating system, a Circuit Judge to each quarterly session for the various Circuits and if all business before a Circuit Court is disposed of before the expiration of a quarterly session, the Chief Justice shall have the power to re-assign the Circuit Judge assigned thereto to sit for the balance of the quarterly sessions in any other Circuit in addition to the Circuit Judge currently assigned there, if he deems such re-assignment will aid the prompt disposition of Judiciary Business."*

### **Section 3.10: Circuit Court open for Judiciary Business at all times; availability of Circuit Judge.**

*"The Circuit Court of the several Judicial Circuits shall be considered always open for adjudication of matters over which they have jurisdiction and for the purpose of filing any pleading or other paper authorized by rule or statute, of issuing and returning mesne and final process and of making and directing all interlocutory motions, orders and rules. Wherever they are present within the Circuit, the Circuit Judge assigned to a Circuit Court, during his assignment and the pretrial chamber session prior thereto, concurrently with the Resident Judge thereof, shall have authority to act on all matters coming before the court; and if neither is available, then except for the trial of an action and any motions in connection therewith which may be made during and after such trial for any motion for an order that would dispose of the action, in whole or in part, in any manner other than the settlement of an action or claim involving an infant or judicially declared incompetent, all other matters may be heard by the Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court adjoining the Circuit where the action is triable."*