SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS

No. 14-085

Order Delivered March 24, 2014

IN RE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, DIVISION 2

ORDER

Amendment 80 to the Arkansas Constitution provides that the supreme court, through the Chief Justice, shall exercise general superintending control over circuit courts, which includes the power to temporarily appoint special judges. Ark. Const. amend. 80, § 4. In addition, "if the Chief Justice shall determine there is other need for a Special Judge to be temporarily appointed, a Special Judge may be assigned by the Chief Justice . . . to serve during the period of temporary disqualification, absence or need." Ark. Const. amend. 80, § 13(C).

The supreme court has been advised that court operations in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, Division 2, have been disrupted, and that the orderly administration of justice has been severely compromised, due, in part, to recusal issues. Accordingly, pursuant to amendment 80, sections 4 and 13(C), I find that it is necessary to appoint by separate order, a special judge, or judges, to the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, Division 2, to hear all pending cases and any cases filed while this order is in effect. The special judge, or judges, along with the circuit judges from the other four divisions, shall have exclusive authority over the

Division 2 docket from the date of this order until further notification.

All judges are afforded the rights provided in amendment 66 of the Arkansas Constitution, and this order should not be deemed as a judgment about, or determination of, any issues that are or could be pending before the Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission.

Chief Justice



MAR 24 2014

LESLIE W. STEEN CLERK