

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

FILED

JAN - 3 2012

RE: CRIMINAL MATTERS PENDING BEFORE JUDGE GOWAN

BARBARA DUNN, CIRCUIT CLERK

ORDER

BY _____ D.C.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, to ensure the speedy resolution of cases currently pending that:

Plea by Dates

Plea by dates, two weeks prior to trial, shall be used to: (1) discuss where the parties stand regarding any plea, (2) allow the State to announce which trials it expects to proceed at trial within the next two weeks and (3) allow either the State or the defense to request a continuance.

All attorneys shall appear with their client at the plea by date, set at arraignment, to announce whether or not a plea offer has been extended and further whether or not the offer has been accepted. If an offer has been extended and not accepted, any plea, after the plea by date, shall be considered open.

The State shall announce at the plea by date which trials it expects to prosecute the following two weeks.

Continuances

If a party, whether the State or the defendant, seeks a continuance, a formal motion shall be filed stating the specific reasons for a continuance. The parties are hereby considered warned regarding the failure of filing formal motions for continuance and what consequences such failure may have when a Motion for Speedy Trial is filed.

If a continuance is granted, the trial shall be given a priority setting the very next month, on the week announced by the Court Administrator or Judge, and the State will be expected to prosecute the continued cases first, ahead of cases originally set for the week.

Defense attorneys are allowed to rely on the State's announcement, in court or private, regarding which trials shall go forward.

The following are a list of plea by dates for the first part of 2012, subject to change at the Court's discretion:

Plea by Date

Trial Date

January 13
January 23
January 30
February 20
March 19
April 2

January 30
January 30
February 13
March 5
April 2
April 17

Status Conferences

As of January 2012, the Court shall start maintaining a running monthly docket of cases set for trial. Said docket is for the Court's convenience and it is recommended to the State and Public Defender's Office they do the same.

On or around the last week of the month, the Court, after independently reviewing the month's docket, in the Court's discretion, shall set a status conference in which the State and Public Defender's Office shall be present. At the status conference, the judge will review every case that was set for trial that month and inquire into the current status of each case. Every case that was set for trial and not disposed of either by plea, nolle pros, or trial, shall be reset for trial. As stated *supra*, any case reset shall be given priority on the new date, ahead of originally set cases.

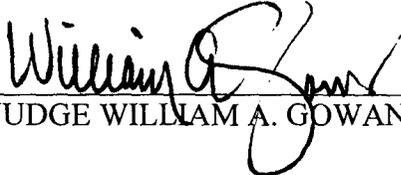
If after reviewing the running docket, the Court is satisfied that all cases set for the month have been handled, a status conference will not be ordered.

If the Court does deem it necessary to have a status conference, at the end of the month, the Court will continue to inquire into cases through the following months, until the Court is satisfied the cases have been handled.

Circulation

This Order shall be filed with the Clerk and openly published at the Court's mass criminal docket call the first week of January. This Order shall be published on the Court's website.

SO ORDERED, this the ^{3rd} day of January, 2012.


JUDGE WILLIAM A. GOWAN