

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

**CASE NO. 26-1  
(Court Administration)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 26-05  
(Rescinding AO Nos. 13-1A and 13-08)**

**IN RE: REESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL  
ARBITRATION COURT IN THE CIRCUIT  
CIVIL DIVISION OF THE ELEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
AND PROCEDURES FOR THE  
ASSIGNMENT AND THE REASSIGNMENT  
TO CASES TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
ARBITRATION SECTION**

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**WHEREAS**, Miami, Florida has become one of the leading venues in the Americas within which to conduct international commercial arbitration proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, international commercial arbitration is a specialized area of law; and

**WHEREAS**, designating trained judges to hear all international commercial arbitration matters fosters greater judicial expertise and understanding of this area of the law and leads to more uniformity in legal decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, an International Commercial Arbitration ("ICA") Subsection was originally created within Section 40, the Complex Business Litigation Section ("ICA Subsection"), but due to the volume of cases the ICA Subsection became comprised of independent sections within the Circuit Civil Division; and

**WHEREAS**, the court has determined a need to reestablish the ICA Court and the procedures for the assignment and reassignment of cases to the ICA.

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

1. All cases involving International Commercial Arbitration (ICA) as designated on the Civil Cover Sheet or identified by the pleadings filed shall be assigned to the ICA Section.
2. The ICA Section shall handle all ICA cases and shall consist of judges who have experience in handling complex commercial matters and who receive special

judicial education in the handling of international commercial arbitration ("ICA Judges").

3. The Chief Judge (or designee) shall specify the training requirements and all judges assigned to ICA cases shall complete the educational requirement.
4. Only ICA Judges shall serve as emergency alternates in ICA cases, notwithstanding other alternate assignments within the Circuit Civil Division.
5. The Chief Judge shall assign judges to the ICA cases as are sufficient and appropriate to meet ICA case load demand.
6. The Honorable Peter Lopez is assigned to Section 46 of the ICA Court.
7. The following judges are assigned as back up to the ICA section;
  - a. Honorable Gina Beovides
  - b. Honorable Beatrice Butchko
  - c. Honorable Lourdes Simon
  - d. Honorable Lisa Walsh
8. ICA cases shall be filed into the ICA Section 46 and may be reassigned based on urgency, workload, or as justice required by the Deputy Chief Judge to one of the back-up judges.

It is further **ORDERED** that the following Procedures apply in ICA cases:

#### **Section 1. General Information.**

- a. Attorneys filing ICA cases shall designate these cases as ICA cases on the Civil Cover Sheet, pursuant to Form 1.999, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure as modified by the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.
- b. A separate notice (form) shall be filed with the complaint by the filing attorney indicating that the case being filed pursuant to jurisdiction under the Florida International Commercial Arbitration Act (Chapter 584, Florida Statutes; or under the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C §1 et seq., as it governs international commercial relationships).
- c. Domestic arbitration matters which do not involve international commercial arbitration or relationships shall not be filed in ICA nor assigned to the ICA Section.

#### **Section 2. Cases Not Subject to the International Commercial Arbitration Sections.**

Matters which do not arise under the Florida International Commercial Arbitration Act or under the Federal Arbitration Act shall not be assigned to the ICA Section,

unless the case meets the definition of related case as arising out of the same transaction or occurrence as those matters properly heard before the ICA Section.

**Section 3. Assignment of Cases in and out of ICA Sections.**

- a. Judges assigned to the general Circuit Civil Division and litigants who have cases filed in the general Circuit Civil Division should submit a motion to the Deputy Chief or designee of the Circuit Civil Division to assign/transfer a pending case that meets the criteria as an ICA case.
- b. If any party disagrees with the assignment or lack of assignment of a case to the ICA Section, then that party may submit a motion for reconsideration to the Deputy Chief or designee of the Circuit Civil Division for re-evaluation and/or case re-assignment.
- c. The Deputy Chief or designee of the Circuit Civil Division shall resolve controversies which may arise concerning the assignment/transfer of any case to or from the ICA Section.
- d. If there is an issue as to whether a matter is subject to arbitration, that controversy shall be assigned to the ICA Section for determination.
- e. Matters assigned to the ICA Section are not subject to the Complex Business Litigation Section Procedures for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.
- f. All filings in the ICA Section shall follow the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, unless other procedural rules are determined to apply by the presiding judge in the case, and the filing requirements of the respective ICA Judge as listed on their judicial webpage.

Administrative Order Nos. 13-1A and 13-08 are hereby rescinded and held for naught. This Administrative Order shall take effect on January 1, 2026, *nunc pro tunc*, and shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at Miami-Dade County, Florida, this 22nd day of January 2026.

**ARIANA FAJARDO ORSHAN, CHIEF JUDGE  
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**