

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

**CASE NO. 21-1
(Court Administration)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 21-12**

**ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER OF
CASES PERTAINING TO THE
CHAMPLAIN TOWERS SOUTH
COLLAPSE TO COMPLEX BUSINESS
LITIGATION SECTION CA 43 IN THE
CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION**

WHEREAS, the Eleventh Circuit established the Complex Business Litigation Sections of the Circuit Civil Division (CBL) in 2006 to provide a rapid and expert resolution of business disputes in support of our local economy. The judges of the CBL Sections have expertise to deal with business disputes in our community, including Construction Defect Litigation; and

WHEREAS, as the litigation over the Champlain Towers South collapse has begun to be filed in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court, these cases are consistently being denominated as Construction Defect or Residential Premises Liability cases, resulting in either being filed into CBL or in regular circuit civil sections. In this instance, the first case was denominated as Construction Defect, filed into CBL, and assigned to Section CA 43 before Judge Michael Hanzman; and

WHEREAS, as set forth in Administrative Order No. 17-11 and pursuant to the rules governing CBL, personal injury and death cases are typically excluded as these case types are not generally considered business disputes falling within the definition or scope of CBL; and

WHEREAS, nevertheless, to promote judicial economy, administrative efficiency, and litigation coordination for the benefit of the parties, it has been determined that in light of the CBL judges' expertise in handling Construction Defect litigation, it is necessary to assign all newly filed cases and transfer all pending cases related to the Champlain Towers South collapse to CBL, Section CA 43 before Judge Hanzman, for coordinated handling, including injury or property damage cases, with the exception of probate estate and guardianship and criminal cases to be heard in their respective divisions.

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 Florida Rules of General

Practice and Judicial Administration, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

1. The Administrative Judge of the Circuit Civil Division shall transfer all cases pertaining to the Champlain Tower South collapse to CBL Section 43, except probate estate and guardianship and criminal cases.
2. The clerk shall advise the Administrative Judge of all case filings pertaining to Champlain Tower South collapse, except probate estate and criminal cases for purposes of transfer.
3. Personal injury and death cases are not within the jurisdiction of CBL, absent this exception. This order is being entered in recognition of the unique circumstance of this tragedy and should not be considered an extension of the regular business court eligible case definition to include cases fundamentally sounding in tort. In the regular course of business, mass tort and tort cases generally will continue to be excluded from the Complex Business Litigation division's caseload.

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

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami-Dade County, Florida, this 8th day of July, 2021.

**NUSHIN G. SAYFIE, CHIEF JUDGE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**