



CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



JUDICIAL BRANCH
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

JUDICIAL ORDER NO. 9 (NINE)

TO: CIRCUIT AND SPECIALIZED JUDGES AND MAGISTRATES

Whereas, section 3.9 of the New Judiciary Law authorizes the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia to assign Circuit Judges to preside over circuit courts on a rotational basis, and further provides that except for Relieving Judges, each Circuit Judge shall preside as Resident Judge over the circuit court of the circuit to which he is appointed;

Whereas, the New Judiciary Law requires that all courts be opened for the conduct of business at all times with a judge or magistrate available and presiding over proceedings;

Whereas, Article 75 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia grants the Supreme Court the power to prescribe rules necessary for the facilitation and proper discharge of the functions of the courts in the Republic of Liberia;

Whereas, the Rules of Courts mandate that judges and magistrates assigned to courts be in prompt attendance at all times in said courts, unless prevented by sickness or such inability over which they have no control, and in such case, they shall give timely notice to the Chief Justice; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court has observed that some judges of the circuit courts, specialized courts and some magistrates are in the constant habit of abandoning their courts without any notice to the Chief Justice.

NOW THEREFORE, the Supreme Court of Liberia, pursuant to Article 75 of the 1986 Constitution, hereby promulgates and issues this Judicial Order No. 9, mandating that judges and magistrates strictly adhere to the Rules Governing all courts in the manner as follows:

1. That all resident and assigned judges and magistrates shall be present and preside over the Formal Opening of each term of court to which they are assigned and shall remain presiding in that court until the end of the term;
2. That all judges and magistrates must submit a request for excuse to the Office of the Chief Justice and must obtain permission before the request can be considered granted; acting otherwise by leaving the court unmanned shall be considered as abandonment of the court

without an official permission from the Chief Justice and shall invoke appropriate administrative action as mentioned hereunder;

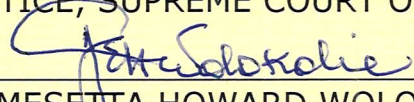
3. That henceforth, no Clerk of Court is authorized to preside over the Formal Opening of a term of court of any Circuit, except where specifically instructed by the Chief Justice; nor shall any clerk of specialized or magisterial courts presided over a proceeding;
4. That Resident Judges are required to visit all magisterial courts in their counties at least once during the year and acquaint himself/herself of the performances of these magisterial courts;
5. That it is the sole authority of the Chief Justice to assign or transfer magistrate from their assigned post.
6. That non-adherence to the foregoing shall warrant strict administrative penalty to include forfeiture of salary and benefits for the duration of the period of unexcused absence; and for repeated non-adherence, the name of the judge shall be forwarded to the Legislature for removal from office, and in the case of a magistrate, the name shall be forwarded to the President for revocation of their Commission.

THIS JUDICIAL ORDER SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY AFTER APPROVAL BY THE FULL BENCH OF THE SUPREME COURT. AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AND SEAL OF
THE SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA, THIS
7th DAY OF JUNE, A.D. 2023



SIE-A-NYENE G. YUOH
CHIEF JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



JAMESETTA HOWARD WOLOKOLIE
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



YUSSIF D. KABA
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



YAMIE QUIQUI GBEISAY, SR.
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

Note: Mr. Justice Joseph N. Nagbe participated in the discussion and determination of this Judicial Order No. 9, but being out of the bailiwick, he did not sign this Judicial Order No. 9.