

Lisa R. Wiese

From: Cynthia Cox [COXC@stlucieco.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2005 9:50 AM
To: James L.S. Bowdish
Cc: William Roby; Thomas Willis
Subject: Caseload in 19th Circuit

In the SLC Family and DV Division in 2004, I was assigned to and handled over 5,500 cases. It is unbearable and as you probably know, the average caseload is supposed to be 1200-1800 cases per judge. I do have a part-time hearing officer and 1/2 of a general master but I still have to review their recommendations and sign their orders. This does not include all post-judgment motions which come in large volumes in family and DV cases. It also does not include the juvenile cases!!

It is a real problem and there are no other judges that want this assignment b/c of the volume and it is very difficult to keep a judicial assistant b/c of the workload. I work no less than 75 hours per week to try to keep up and still can't! (although I am very efficient in this area of law). In addition, I handle IRC Drug Court and the SLC civil recusal cases. I can never find time to schedule hearings in the civil cases and time to do jury trials has been non-existent for several years b/c of the urgent issues that we have to deal with in family. The time it takes to give someone a hearing is too long and I do not have enough time to spend the proper time on motions or in DV as should be done in family law. I can go into more detail if you wish to call me at 772-462-2382.

Thanks for your hard work on our behalf. We are definitely way overworked and underpaid based on our current workload. It is going to be difficult to keep and get good attys to be judges at the current level of caseload assignment.

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