

# News Release



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## Order Designating Chief Judges and Associate Chief Judges for Administrative Purposes of the Summary Courts

On June 28, Chief Justice Donald Beatty filed an Order designating Chief Judges and Associate Chief Judges for Administrative purposes of the Summary Court. In Charleston County, Judge Leroy Linen was designated Chief Magistrate Judge and Judge Thomas E. Lynn Associate Chief Judge. Judge Linen has been a magistrate for Charleston County since 1973, and is currently the longest serving magistrate judge in South Carolina.

Responsibilities of a Chief Judge includes:

- Coordinating with the Office of South Carolina Court Administration on all matters pertaining to summary court judges in the County.
- Establishing schedules with other magistrates so that one will be available to issue warrants and conduct bail proceedings.
- Monitor all summary court judges to ensure bond hearings are conducted twice daily, the constitutional and statutory rights of defendants and victims are upheld, bonds are not excessive, and there are no irregular practices.
- Coordinate the planning of budgets for the magistrates in the county.
- Set terms of court, both civil and criminal, when terms are necessary for disposition.
- When any summary court judge in the county dies, retires, or is suspended, and a successor has not been nominated, the Chief Justice will take custody or transfer all court records.
- Appoint, coordinate and assign constables throughout the County.
- Monitor all requests for recusals countywide.

Associate Chief Judges shall act in the absence or disability of the Chief Judge, and perform all duties assigned by Chief Judges. The order became effective July 1, 2017 and continues through December 31, 2017 unless amended or revoked by the Order of the Chief Justice.

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