

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOLMES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

RE: FEBRUARY 2020 TERM OF COURT

ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the Court on the Court's Motion concerning the February Term of Court in Holmes County. The Court will endeavor to move the cases to final resolution during the term. The term will begin on Monday, January 27, 2020, therefore, you are to report to the Court on January 23, 2020, in writing, whether your clients will enter a plea or go to trial. You are to report in Court on January 27 at 9:00 a. m. on the final status of your cases for the February Term of Court, **with each of your clients present with you at status conference**, no excuses, if not a bench warrant will be issued. **The Court advised your clients at arraignment to be back in court on the 1st day of the term.** Defense Attorneys, please start now getting in contact with your clients and contacting the State for plea offers, if any. **If the State plans on offering a recommendation, please submit the same to the defense attorney on or before January 22, 2020**, if you have not already done so. Do not wait until January 27, 2020 to do this. The Court will have a final status conference on January 27, 2020. The State shall provide the Defense Attorneys with their **final plea offer** on or before January 22, 2020. The Defense must decide on or before January 27, 2020, whether they will accept the final offer. I need to know your client's final decision on January 27, 2020. The status report will assist the Court in setting cases for trial on days where all defendants, that are not previously set, will enter a guilty plea. This will hopefully prevent wasted court days. In the event the first setting enters an open plea on the morning of trial, the other settings should be present and ready for trial.

You are ordered to be mindful and abide by the Court's standing orders on scheduling of criminal motions, psychological evaluation and omnibus hearings. The criminal status conferences are set for Defense Attorneys and the District Attorney to meet with the Court on Monday, January 27, 2020 at 9:00 a. m. to report the status of all cases set on the February Docket.

The following Defense Attorneys are hereby ordered to be present:


J. David Wynne Alva Taylor Pearlene Jones Lawrence Blackmon
Ross Barnett Warren Conway Sanford Knott Alton Peterson
James Powell Wesley Evans Aafram Sellers Damon Stevenson

The District Attorney office is also ordered to be present at the status conference, prepared to report on the State's position.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court will hear pleas on Friday, January 31, 2020 at 10:00 a. m. All other pleas heard after January 31, 2020 will be open pleas. If an attorney cannot be present for status conference, you shall contact another attorney to stand in for you.

The parties failing to abide by this Court's order shall be subject to contempt proceeding, which may result in the payment of jury fees and other sanctions.

ORDERED this 19 day of December, 2019.


CIRCUIT JUDGE