

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOLMES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

RE: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020 TERM OF COURT

ORDER

**THIS MATTER** is before the Court on the Court's Motion concerning the Sept./Oct. Term of Court in Holmes County. The Court will endeavor to move the cases to final resolution during the term. Therefore, you are to report to the Court on September 24, 2020, in writing, whether your clients will enter a plea or go to trial. You are to report in Court on September 28 at 12:00 p. m. on the final status of your cases for the Sept./Oct. Term of Court. **Your client does not have to be present in Court.** 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 September 22, 2020,** if you have not already done so. Do not wait until September 28, 2020 to do this. The Court will have a final status conference on September 28, 2020. The State shall provide the Defense Attorneys with their **final plea offer** on or before September 22, 2020. The Defense must decide on or before September 24, 2020, whether they will accept the final offer. I need to know your client's final decision on September 28, 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, September 28, 2020 at 12:00 p. m. to report the status of all cases set on the Sept/Oct. Docket.

The following Defense Attorneys are hereby ordered to be present:

*Charles Irvin      Alva Taylor      Pearlene Jones      Trent Walker      Roslyn Jordan*  
*Roberta Blackmon      Richard Carter      Kellie Koeing      Ursula Mitchell      Neysha Sanders*  
*Dennis Sweet, IV      Lawrence Blackmon, Jr.      James Powell      Wesley Evans      Aafram Sellers*

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, October 2, 2020 at 9:00 a. m. All other pleas heard after October 2, 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 8 day of September, 2020.

  
CIRCUIT JUDGE