

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOLMES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

RE: FEBRUARY 2024 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, February 5, 2024, therefore, you are to report to the Court on February 1, 2024, in writing, whether your clients will enter a plea or go to trial. You are to report in Court on February 5 at 12:00 p. m. on the final status of your cases for the February Term of Court. **Your client must be present in Court on February 5, 2024 or absent with the Court's permission. If the State plans on offering a recommendation, please submit the same to the defense attorney on or before January 18, 2024,** if you have not already done so. The Defense shall advise the State on or before January 26, whether they will accept the plea offer or not. The Court will have a final status conference on February 5, 2024. The State shall provide the Defense Attorneys with their **final plea offer** on or before January 30, 2024. The Defense must decide on or before February 1, 2024, whether they will accept the final offer. I need to know the Defendant's final decision on February 5, 2024, and all recommended pleas will be taken by the Court on February 9, 2024. All pleas after February 9, 2024 will be open pleas. 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, February 5, 2024 at 12:00 p. m. to report the trial status of **all** cases set on the February Docket.

The following Defense Attorneys are hereby ordered to be present:

Charles Irvin    Alva Taylor    Pearlene Jones    Timothy Howard  
Jarrod Mumford    James Powell    Lawrence Blackmon    Kelvin Camp    Ottawa Carter  
Larry Stamps    Edward Blackmon    Joe Hollomon    Cynthia Stewart

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, February 9, 2024 at 9:00 a. m. All other pleas heard after February 9, 2024 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 2 day of January, 2024.

  
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CIRCUIT JUDGE