

The provided court filings from *State v. Winter* center on a challenge to the authority of a County Court judge sitting continuously as an "acting" Circuit Court judge, culminating in an administrative reassignment of the caseload.

Summary of the Filings

- **Motion for Disqualification of Trial Judge (*State v. Winter*):** Filed on September 4, 2025, defense counsel Sean Conway moved to disqualify County Court Judge Aaron Peacock from presiding over a 1st-degree murder trial. The defense argued that Judge Peacock had been assigned to Circuit Criminal Division 9 via successive 60-day administrative orders for 27 consecutive months without handling any County Court cases. Citing Florida Supreme Court precedents (*Crusoe v. Rows*, *Wild v. Dozier*, and *Payret v. Adams*), the motion asserted that using temporary cross-assignments to create an exclusive, full-time *de facto* circuit judge position subverts constitutional vetting requirements (election or Judicial Nominating Commission review) and deprives the defendant of a properly authorized circuit judge.
- **Order Denying Motion as Moot:** On September 12, 2025, Circuit Judge Charles G. Crawford denied the disqualification motion as moot. The ruling noted that Chief Judge Melanie Chase had issued Administrative Order No. 25-33-B on September 5, 2025, reassigning Judge Peacock's entire pending circuit caseload directly to Judge Crawford.