

**IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF FLORIDA**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2015-07

IN RE: LEON COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

WHEREAS, most veterans and servicemembers are strengthened by their military service, but for many, their experience has resulted in suffering from "invisible wounds" such as military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problems; and

WHEREAS, if left untreated, these "invisible wounds" may directly lead to involvement in the criminal justice system, costing the criminal justice system, the community, the taxpayer, and the veterans or servicemembers themselves; and

WHEREAS, the *T. Patt Maney Veterans' Treatment Act*, section 394.47891, Florida Statutes, and sections 948.08(7)(a), 948.16(2)(a), and 948.21, Florida Statutes, authorizes the chief judge to establish felony and/or misdemeanor pretrial or post-adjudicatory veterans' treatment intervention programs to address the military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problems of veterans and servicemembers charged with, or on probation or community control for, criminal offenses; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Florida Legislature appropriated recurring state funds to establish a felony and/or misdemeanor pretrial or post-adjudicatory veterans treatment intervention program in Leon County, the Governor signed this legislation into law effective July 1, 2015, and the Leon County Board of County Commissioners agreed to serve as fiscal agent for a veterans court effective July 7, 2015; it is therefore

ORDERED that a Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is established in Leon County in and for the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida, with an effective date of November 1, 2015, Nunc Pro Tunc.

DONE AND ORDERED in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida this 30th day of November, 2015.



JONATHAN M. STROM
CHIEF JUDGE

Copies furnished to:
All Circuit and County Judges, Second Judicial Circuit
Office of the State Attorney, Second Judicial Circuit
Office of the Public Defender, Second Judicial Circuit
Clerk of the Court, Leon County
All Law Enforcement Agencies, Leon County
Leon County Intervention and Detention Alternatives
Department of Corrections, Parole and Probation



UNOFFICIAL DOCUMENT