

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 12-03**  
**Supercedes Administrative Order 08-16**  
**(Order of Succession if Chief Judge Absent or Disabled)**

**WHEREAS**, the order of succession in case of absence or disability of the Chief Judge of the Superior Court is currently addressed by D.C. Official Code (2001 Ed.) § 11-907(a), which specifies that the duties of the Chief Judge shall devolve upon an associate judge whom the Chief Judge designates in writing; and

**WHEREAS**, an advanced written designation of associate judges to perform the duties of the office of chief judge is necessary to provide an orderly succession of authority in the event the Chief Judge unexpectedly dies or becomes disabled or is absent and cannot be located within twenty-four hours without having designated an acting chief judge in writing;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is by the Court,

**ORDERED**, if, at a time when he or she has not designated an acting chief judge in writing (including by e-mail), the Chief Judge dies, is absent and cannot be located for more than twenty-four hours or becomes unable to perform the duties of office, the following associate judges shall assume the powers and duties of chief judge in the order in which they are ready, willing and able to assume such powers and duties:

Associate Judges of the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in the order of seniority of service as an associate judge;  
Presiding Judges of the Court's Divisions in the order of seniority of service as an associate judge;  
Deputy Presiding Judges of the Court's Divisions in the order of seniority of service as an associate judge; and it is further,

**ORDERED**, authority to act as Chief Judge shall devolve under this Administrative Order only for so long as the Chief Judge or the next preceding designee shall remain absent or disabled or until the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission, acting pursuant to D.C. Official Code (2001 Ed.) § 1-204.31(b), designates a chief judge, whichever period is shorter; and it is further,

**ORDERED**, in the absence of action by the D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure or the D.C. Court of Appeals pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-204.32, disability of the Chief Judge or any associate judge to whom the powers and duties of the office of chief judge have devolved under this order shall be determined by his or her written declaration or by affirmative vote of a three-fifths majority of associate judges then in active service; and it is further,

**ORDERED**, this order does not address removal and suspension for disciplinary reasons, which remain subject to the pertinent provisions of D.C. Official Code § 1-204.32.

**SO ORDERED.**

**BY THE COURT**

**March 12, 2012**

**/s/**  

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**Lee F. Satterfield**  
**Chief Judge**

**Copies to:**

**Judges**  
**Senior Judges**  
**Magistrate Judges**  
**Executive Officer**  
**Clerk of the Court**  
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