

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 18-07**

Renaming “Domestic Violence Unit” to “Domestic Violence Division”

WHEREAS, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia entered into an interagency agreement to implement the District of Columbia Domestic Violence Plan of 1995 (Domestic Violence Plan), which called for, in part, the creation of a Domestic Violence Unit in the Superior Court; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Order 96-25 established the Domestic Violence Unit to exclusively handle intrafamily offenses before a designated team of judicial officers and other court personnel in order to render efficient and comprehensive services; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in, *Robinson v. United States*, 769 A.2d 747, 751 (2001), confirmed that “the Superior Court may be organized for administrative purposes into divisions, branches or other units, the Court is a unitary entity under the District of Columbia Court Reorganization Act of 1970 . . . [and] [t]he ‘functional divisions’ of the Court ‘do not delimit their power as tribunals . . . with general jurisdiction’”; and

WHEREAS, the *Robinson* Court affirmed the creation of the Domestic Violence Unit as within the Chief Judge of the Superior Court’s statutory authority to “arrange and divide the business of the Superior Court” pursuant to D.C. Code § 11-906 (b); and

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Unit has historical importance and comports with the fair and expeditious disposition of the court’s business by averaging over 7,800 new cases per year; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the administration of justice that the Court change the name of the Domestic Violence Unit to improve an understanding by the parties and the general public of its work, differentiate it from other Court Divisions and demonstrate its significance to the persons who come before it and the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is by the Court,

ORDERED, the “Domestic Violence Unit” is hereby renamed and henceforth shall be referred to as the “Domestic Violence Division”; and it is further

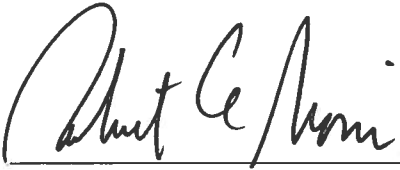
ORDERED, that all previously issued Administrative Orders including, among others, Administrative Order 96-25 (establishing the Domestic Violence Unit); 02-32 (implementing Confidentiality Obligations); 15-13 (adopting the Domestic Violence Unit Case Management

Plan); 14-12 (establishing the District of Columbia Volunteer Lawyers Project – Attorneys Providing Pro Bono Representation in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia Family Court and Domestic Violence Unit); and 14-10 (Limited Appearances in the Civil Division, Probate Division, Tax Division, Family Court, and Domestic Violence Unit) are hereby amended to reflect the change in name.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT

Date: June 26, 2018



Robert E. Morin, Chief Judge

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