

—THE—
15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
—OF FLORIDA—

CIRCUIT COURIER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023

The Honorable James Sherman Elevated to Circuit Court



On Thursday, October 12, the Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, announced the elevation of Judge James Sherman to the Circuit Court from the County Court, where he served since 2022. Judge Sherman's appointment filled the judicial vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Laura Johnson. Judge Sherman is currently assigned to Circuit Civil Division AK.



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Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Judges Attend Investiture Ceremony for the Hon. Renatha Francis

On Wednesday, October 18, the investiture ceremony for the Honorable Renatha Francis was held in Tallahassee, FL. Justice Francis was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court in August 2022 by Governor Ron DeSantis, after serving as a judge with the 15th Circuit since 2019 and as an Eleventh Judicial Circuit Judge from 2017 to 2019.

Judges from the Fifteenth Circuit traveled to Tallahassee to provide their support. In addition to Chief Judge Glenn Kelley, other judges in attendance included the Hon. Dina Kever-Agrama, the Hon. Daliah Weiss, the Hon. Samantha Schosberg Feuer, the Hon. Sarah Willis, the Hon. April Bristow, the Hon. Stephanie Tew, the Hon. Lauren Burke, the Hon. Ori Silver, and Magistrate Maxine Williams.



Pictured here are: the Hon. Stephanie Tew, Hon. Dina Kever-Agrama, Hon. Sarah Willis, Hon. Lauren Burke, Hon. April Bristow, Attorney Sia Baker Barnes, Hon. Samantha Schosberg Feuer and the Hon. Ori Silver.

The 15th Circuit Remembers the Hon. Hubert R. Lindsey



On October 21, the Honorable Hubert Lindsey passed away in Brooks County, GA. Appointed to the Circuit Court bench in 1986, Judge Lindsey held assignments in the Juvenile, Family, Civil and Criminal divisions.

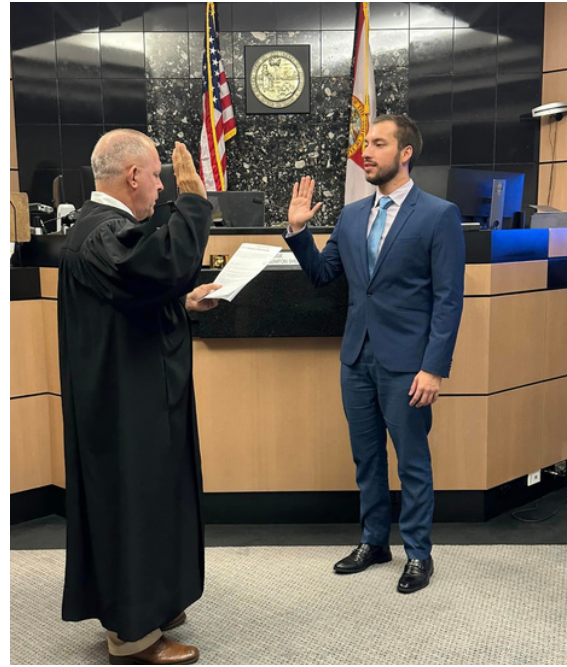
Born July 15, 1933 in Jacksonville, Florida, Judge Lindsey earned his Bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Florida. After graduation, Judge Lindsey spent 19 years in Palm Beach County as a practicing attorney, specializing in civil cases.

Judge Lindsey retired from the bench on January 3, 2005. He will be remembered for his fairness and desire to inspire and mentor young attorneys, just as he was inspired by those who mentored him. He will be greatly missed by his former colleagues as well as the staff of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

The Judiciary Swears New Attorneys into the Florida Bar



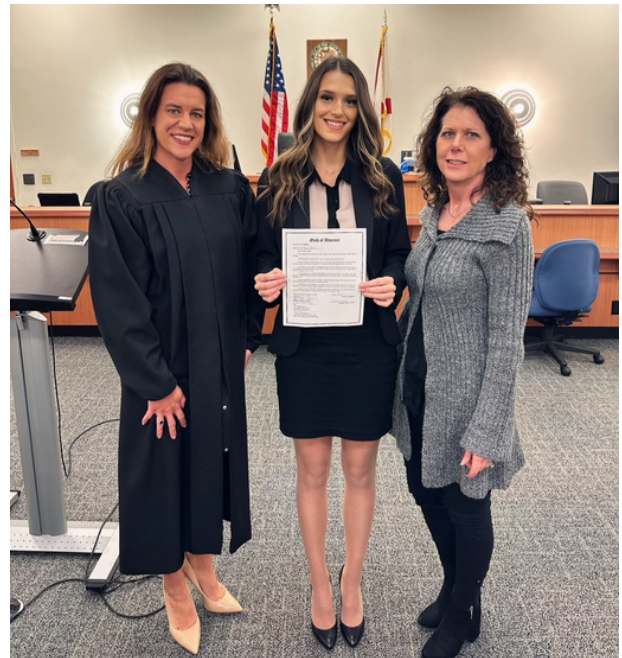
On Monday, October 2, the Honorable Cymonie Rowe had the pleasure of swearing in her judicial assistant Sarah Lamberson. Sarah was joined in this celebration by her husband Joshua Lamberson, the Honorable Maxine Cheesman, and members of the Court Administration staff.



On Friday, October 6, the Honorable Darren Shull administered the new attorney oath to Tomas Cabezas.



On Wednesday, October 11, the Honorable Samantha Schosberg Feuer administered the new attorney oath to Jack Murray.



On Thursday, November 30, the Honorable Laura Burkhart administered the new attorney oath to Anna Koontz.

The Judiciary Swears New Attorneys into the Florida Bar



On Friday, December 15, the Honorable Sherri Collins administered the new attorney oath to Olivia Povedano.

The Investiture of the Hon. Danielle Sherriff



On Friday, November 3, the Circuit held the investiture ceremony for the Honorable Danielle Sherriff. Judge Sherriff was appointed to the County Court bench in 2023 by Governor Ron DeSantis. During the well-attended ceremony, many colleagues, family members and friends presented gifts to and spoke highly of Judge Sherriff's kind-hearted spirit, compassion for others as well as her professionalism and dedication.

Chief Judge Kelley presided over the ceremony, while also delivering remarks and Justice Renatha Francis was present to perform the official swearing-in.

Congratulations to Judge Sherriff.

Judges in the Community

On Friday, October 27, as part of the Ethical Governance Day events, Judge Samantha Schosberg Feuer and Judge Danielle Sherriff spoke to approximately 400 high school sophomores from Suncoast Community High School about their career paths, the judiciary, jury service, and jury trials.



On Friday, November 3, the Hon. Lauren Burke, Hon. Laura Burkhart, Hon. Carolyn Bell, Hon. Sarah Willis, Hon. Reid Scott, Hon. Stephanie Tew, Hon. Sherri Collins, and the Hon. Samantha Schosberg Feuer participated in the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Reading & Robes program, reading to 70 fifth grade students at South Olive Elementary.



On November 16, Judge Ted Booras was keynote speaker for the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Veterans Day Membership Luncheon. The luncheon was held to celebrate the men and women who have served and are currently serving our Country.



Honoring Judges of the 15th Circuit



On November 2, Judge James Nutt was awarded with the Jurist of the Year award by the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) - Palm Beach Chapter.

The Circuit extends its congratulations to Judge Nutt.

Pictured above is Judge Nutt with ABOTA Past President Steve Rothman.



On Wednesday, November 8, Judge Bradley Harper was awarded with the Jurist of the Year award by the Palm Beach County Justice Association.

Many congratulations to Judge Harper for this award.

Pictured above is Judge Harper with his family.



On Monday, November 27, Judge Howard Coates, Jr. received the Florida Patriot Award from the Palm Beach County Bar Association. The award is given to a judge or lawyer who has served their Country and made a positive impact on their local community.

The Circuit extends their congratulations to Judge Coates.

Pictured above is Judge Coates with PBC Bar Association President Grasford Smith.

Honoring Judges of the 15th Circuit Continued

On Thursday, November 30, Judge Kathleen Kroll received the Judge Ron Alvarez Resiliency Award.

The award is named in honor of former Circuit Judge, Ron Alvarez. The award recognizes those in the legal system who are advocates for a more comprehensive understanding of the science of adversity. The recipient is one who has worked tirelessly to promote a trauma-informed approach to legal practice, making our legal system more compassionate and equitable for vulnerable children and families.

The Circuit extends its congratulations to Judge Kroll.



Pictured is Renee Layman, the President and CEO of the Center for Child Counseling, and Judge Kroll.



Pictured above is Judge Sherriff with PBC Commissioner Mack Bernard and Judge Sherriff with Vanessa Joseph, City Clerk of North Miami.

On Saturday, December 9, the Honorable Danielle Sherriff was presented with a proclamation by the City of North Miami declaring December 9 as Judge Danielle Sherriff Day, as well as a recognition plaque from the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners during the Haitian Lawyers Association holiday party.

Many congratulations to Judge Sherriff.

Magistrate Diane Kirigin Wins Professionalism Award

Magistrate Diane Kirigin was awarded the 2023 Judge John L. Phillips Professionalism Award from the Susan Greenberg Family Law Inns of Court of the Palm Beaches, in December 2023.

The award was presented to Magistrate Kirigin by Tom Baker, Former Magistrate.

We extend our congratulations to Magistrate Kirigin.



Long-time Volunteer Mediator, Denise Nagle, retires

The Circuit bids farewell to Denise Nagle, long-time volunteer and court employee. After 39 years of service, Ms. Nagle says goodbye. After resigning from her position with Court Administration, she served as a volunteer County Court mediator from 1997 to 2023.

October 9-13 Proclaimed Employee Appreciation Week

In recognition of the Circuit's dedicated public servants, Chief Judge Glenn Kelley proclaimed the week of October 9, 2023 "Employee Recognition Week." The week was full of events and activities for the court staff. It included an appreciation breakfast and recognition ceremony with Chief Judge Kelley as the Keynote Speaker, followed by a raffle and group photo.



Group photo of Chief Judge Glenn Kelley with court employees during appreciation breakfast.



Court employees participated in adult coloring on day three of employee appreciation week.



Paulina Pasquarelli, Mental Health Operations Supervisor, Justin Forest, Human Resources Manager and Sue Ling Curtis, Administrative Assistant II served afternoon cookies to court employees to close out employee appreciation week.

October 15-21 Proclaimed Mediation Week



Chief Justice Muniz issued a proclamation declaring October 15-21, 2023 Mediation Week in Florida. The proclamation noted the important role mediation plays in our justice system and represents a significant honor for the mediation community throughout the state. The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's Alternative Dispute Resolution Office utilizes Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediators who assist parties to reach a mutually acceptable agreement. The court program's mediators mediate family, juvenile dependency and county court matters.

Pictured above are (l to r, back row): Jeffrey Kash, Sandra Picchiello, Kelly Henderson, Benjamin Johnson, Colette Mediavilla and Rosa Diaz; (l to r, front row): Nadya Aleman, Danni Hoefling, ADR Director and Lourdes Castillo.

Bahamas Judiciary Delegation Visits the Circuit

A delegation of seven members of the Bahamas Judiciary visited our circuit on October 12, 2023. While onsite, they were provided a tour of the courthouse by our Director of Administrative Services, Melissa Sotillo. The tour included a live courtroom observation and discussion with Judge Rowe; a courtroom digital technology demonstration by Judge Collins; a visit to the Law Library; and a visit with the Law Clerk team.



Pictured here (l to r): Rosanne Sweeting, Acting Assistant Registrar, Melissa Sotillo, Director of Administrative Services, Subusola Swain, Assistant Chief Magistrate, Laquay Laing, Magistrate, Indy Hunter, Acting Assistant Registrar, Rasean Longley, Judicial Research Counsel, Edmund Turner, Deputy Registrar and Olivia Blatch, Deputy Registrar

Health and Wellness Committee Holds Second Wellness Day Event

The Circuit's Health and Wellness Committee held the second Wellness Day Event on Friday, October 20.: It was a day full of in-person and virtual activities including: yoga, a Zen room for relaxation; therapy dogs; food and beverage trucks; stretching sessions; and health checks.

Wellness Day was organized by the Circuit's Health and Wellness Committee as a part of the "For Your Health" program which offers monthly activities aimed at supporting and nurturing the health and wellness of the court staff and judicial officers.



The Circuit's Health and Wellness Committee with representatives from Baptist Health.



Judge Daliah Weiss interacts with a few therapy dogs.



Court employees take a moment to enjoy the Zen Room.



Court employees learn about meal prep offerings from Ideal Nutrition representative.

Courthouse Tours



Students from Palm Beach Gardens High School paid a visit to the main courthouse on October 19th. During their visit, they observed Judge Shepherd and Judge Coates' docket, experienced a K-9 demonstration, toured holding cells and the jury room.

Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Celebrates National Adoption Day with Annual Event

In honor of National Adoption Day, the Fifteenth Circuit hosted an annual event, which included the adoption proceedings for 12 families. The day began with a welcome ceremony led by Chief Judge Glenn Kelley with remarks from Juvenile Administrative Judge Kathleen Kroll. The late Judge Ronald V. Alvarez was posthumously honored with the 2023 Jim Sackett Adoption Advocate Award, presented by former news anchor Jim Sackett, to Judge Alvarez's wife, Elaine Alvarez.

At the ceremony, 17 children, ranging in age from 10 months to 17 years old, were formally united with their forever families and were supported by many fellow family members, friends, community advocates, judges and court administration staff.



Court Directors Host Annual “Thanks for Giving” Dessert Party



On November 20, the Circuit’s Court Administration Directors hosted their annual “Thanks for Giving” dessert party for judges, Judicial Assistants, and court administration staff. The deserts, donated by the Directors, were served up to attendees as a special thank you for the contributions the court staff and Judicial Assistants provide to the Circuit. The annual dessert party is held in tandem with the Circuit’s annual food drive for those less fortunate in the community.

Drug Court Coordinator Brandon Richardson Wins Award



Congratulations to Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator, Brandon Richardson, who was awarded with the first “Judge Ronald Alvarez Memorial Award” at the Making Every Day Count, Inc. annual luncheon held on October 19, 2023.

Judge Alvarez was responsible for establishing the Circuit’s Juvenile Drug Court. The award recognizes a person in the community who exhibits the virtues and selfless qualities for which Judge Alvarez was known.

Judicial Assistants Hold Annual Holiday Lunch



On December 8, the Judicial Assistants celebrated their comradery and the holidays season with a gathering for their annual holiday lunch. This year's event featured a country western theme. There was an array of delicious southern food, seasonal drinks, and desserts, a raffle, and fun decorations.

Civil Case Management Team Achieves Compliance



The Civil Case Management Team worked diligently to complete the manual review and generation of Differentiated Case Management (“DCM) orders for Circuit and County civil cases filed January 1, 2023-August 31, 2023, approximately 15,000 orders. Effective September 1, the Circuit’s Court Technology developed and implemented a technological solution to the generation of DCM orders. Through the use of the new system, the Fifteenth Circuit is fully compliant with the Florida Supreme Court DCM mandate.

Civil Case Management team pictured here (l to r - back row): Shawnte Neeley, Renee Ward, Erin Berlingo, Reyaz Ali; (l to r - front row): Robin Shevock, Ebone’ Hutchins, Alexi Abril and Emma Soler

Fifteenth Circuit's Annual Holiday Luncheon

The annual holiday luncheon for judges, JAs and court administration staff was held on Friday, December 15. The event included opening remarks from Chief Judge Glenn Kelley, music from our resident dj "DJ Crutch", great food, raffles, and several fun rounds of bingo.

A special thank you to the holiday luncheon committee for putting together this event.



Chief Judge Kelley addresses luncheon attendees.



William Hutchings, Chief of Personnel a/k/a "DJ Crutch" provided the holiday music.



Bingo winners show off their prizes.



Members of the holiday luncheon committee and several court directors share their holiday cheer.

Human Resources Lunch & Learn Recaps

November 2023: On November 20, Court Program Specialist Barbara Calafell, presented on how to create fluid art pieces. The well-attended event provided a fun and engaging midday break.



Other Lunch & Learn Dates:

October 2023: On October 16, Senior Secretary Steven Toner presented on the topic of car buying to Circuit employees, providing tips on how to negotiate and save money while purchasing a vehicle.

December 2023: On December 18, Mary McLean presented on the topic of Everything iOS, educating Circuit employees on best practices, integration, important/hidden features and more related to mobile work/personal iPhones and iPads.

New Employee Orientation



Several new Court employees attended the Circuit's employee orientation course. During the course, the employees were introduced to the Circuit's Mission and Vision, the Circuit's Core Competencies, the structure of the judicial branch, and their role as officers of the Court.

In Memoriam



Dan Drodny: On November 30, Dan Drodny passed away. Don was hired to work for the Circuit in October 1993, prior to Revision 7 to Article V, as a County-funded employee in Court Administration. After Revision 7, in July 2004, Don continued to work for Court Administration as a State-funded employee in the Court Finance/Facility Department.

Don was the “go to” man for many of us during his years of employment until his retirement on June 30, 2015. We fondly remember him as a kind man with southern charm and a West Virginia accent. He was willing to help out with any facility issue that came up. Don spent his later years caring for his mother. May he rest in peace.

Gary Millar: On December 19, Gary Millar tragically passed away. Gary was a Certified Spanish Court Interpreter who interpreted in many divisions. He began his work in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in April 2015. Prior to his time with the Fifteenth Circuit, Gary spent two years with the Seventeenth Circuit (Broward County). Gary held a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting from Florida Atlantic University as well as a Bachelor’s degree in Spanish from Florida International University.

Known for his kindness, Gary will be greatly missed by his colleagues of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, especially his fellow team members of the Court Interpreting staff.



Janice “Jan” Leslie: On December 27, Janice “Jan” Leslie passed away. Jan came to the Circuit with Judge Jack Cook, whom she had worked with in private practice. She served as a Judicial Assistant, first starting in October 1981, with Judge Cook until close to Judge Cook's retirement (retirement date: April 2011). After many enjoyable years of working as a team with Judge Cook, Jan transitioned to enjoyable years of working as a team with Judge Glenn Kelley, until she retired on May 31, 2015. Jan served 34 years as a stellar Judicial Assistant.

Both Judge Cook and Judge Kelley have stated that Jan helped them become better judges. Jan’s dedication to her role as a Judicial Assistant was recognized on February 10, 2015 when she received an Excellence Award for Judicial Assistant for the quarter ending December 2014.



New Hires | Employees On the Move

Welcome to the Circuit's newest employees

October 2023

Maureen Scafordi, Digital Court Reporter
Megan Spangenberg, Digital Court Reporter
Milena Scheib, Digital Court Reporter
Jordan “Xander” Davis, Floating Judicial Assistant
Katiana Saintable, Family Mediator
Rachel Lively, Juvenile Court Coordinator
Crystal Waite, Judicial Assistant, County to Judge Debra Moses Stephens
Christina Marrasquin, Judicial Assistant, Circuit to Judge James Martz

December 2023

Juan Hidalgo, Certified Spanish Court Interpreter
Kristen Parske, Juvenile Court Case Manager
Jose Suarez, Senior Programmer
Andrew Delgado, Spanish Court Interpreter
Amber McConlogue, Magistrate Assistant

Judicial Elevations; Employee Changes

October 2023

Hon. James Sherman, Circuit Judge
Donna Francis, Judicial Assistant, Circuit to Judge James Sherman

November 2023

Ebone’ Hutchins, Civil Court Case Manager

December 2023

Brenton Wildes, Agency Analyst Programmer

Administrative Orders

The following AOs were updated or created October - December 2023 (most recent to oldest):

12-22-2023	4.202	Schedule of Bonds	
11-27-2023	10.401	Assignment of Civil Traffic Infractions	
11-27-2023	4.603	County Criminal Regions/Branch Courthouses	
11-09-2023	2.105	Fifteenth Circuit's Professionalism Panel	
11-08-2023	2.105	Local Professionalism Panel Members	
10-26-2023	11.106	Alternate Assignments	
10-26-2023	11.104	Seniority Listing Of Judges	
10-26-2023	11.101	Assignment of Judges	
10-26-2023	5.603	Delinquency Drug Court	
10-05-2023	5.805	Truancy Court	
10-04-2023	3.202	Motions to Compel Discovery	



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