

Circuit Courier

April-June 2007

Vol. 2007-2

NEWS BULLETIN OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Our Courts Our Community

Law Week

Juror Appreciation
Month

Volunteer Recognition
Luncheon

Take Your Son/Daughter
to Work Day

And more...

In Memorium:
Former Trial Court Administrator
Susan D. Ferrante
1948-2007

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COMING SOON: DIVERSITY TRAINING

“When people believe the justice system is unfair, it substantially weakens the public’s trust and confidence in the courts.”

— Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis

“When people believe the justice system is unfair, it substantially weakens the public’s trust and confidence in the courts,” said **Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis** to all of the Judiciary in his March 5, 2007 memorandum.

He called for the Chief Judge in each circuit to establish a Diversity Training Team and has indicated that all Judges and court employees must receive training on this subject, preferably by the end of this year.

Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll has therefore appointed **Judge Moses Baker, Jr., Judge Sandra K. McSorley** and **Court Education Program Consultant John E. McGovern** to this task.

Judges Baker and McSorley have attended a special session at the College of Advanced Judicial Studies, and Mr. McGovern has authored a Request for Proposals which has been sent to several noted facilitators/trainers around the state with a response date of June 30th.

All 15th Judicial Circuit Judges and employees will be asked to participate in a training opportunity for which Florida Court Education Council Continuing Judicial Education (CJE) credit will be granted.

Updates on this program will be forthcoming following the selection of the training consultant by Judge Kroll and the local committee.

CIRCUIT MARKS PASSING OF FORMER
TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR
SUSAN D. FERRANTE

Susan D. Ferrante
1948-2007



Court Administration announced with great sadness the passing of Susan D. Ferrante, who died on June 23, 2007. Ms. Ferrante served as Trial Court Administrator for the Fifteenth Circuit for more than 20 years, before illness forced her retirement in January.

The Circuit hosted a memorial for Ms. Ferrante in Courtroom 11A of the Central Courthouse at 3 p.m. on July 9th.

A press release highlighting her accomplishments with the Circuit is featured at: <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/cadmin/>

Early Success for the Justice Teaching Initiative

Florida Supreme Court **Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis** put his passion and commitment to education to work in launching the Florida Justice Teaching Initiative. The goal of this statewide program is to pair a legal professional with every elementary, middle and secondary school in the state, to act as a resource person for classroom teachers and students in an effort to improve the status of civics education – especially with respect to “The Third Branch” (the judicial branch) of government.

Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll and **Court Education Program Consultant John McGovern** have collaborated to develop this program to its fullest potential for the Fifteenth Circuit.

Mr. McGovern reported early success in the first phase of the program, during which attorneys were sought to visit a statewide website to volunteer to be linked with a school. He said, “Congratulations to Palm Beach County Bar Association members, who are the single cause of Palm Beach County being one of the first circuits in the

state to have an attorney linked to every public school in the county. Many schools have more than one attorney committed to serving as a professional resource for improving the state of civics education for the citizens of tomorrow.”

Administration of the program has now shifted from the state’s website to each of the circuits. In the Fifteenth Circuit, plans are underway for continued training of each volunteer.

Attorneys may still sign up for this program using the hyperlink below. Schools can also use this website to nominate their contact person/coordinator for the program. Many of the program’s curriculum aspects can be viewed on the website.

For more information, please contact: John McGovern at 355-1537; or visit the program website at:

<http://www.justiceteaching.org>.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: CIVIL DRUG COURT

One hot Saturday in June a small group of people are traveling to Civil Drug Court in Riviera Beach. They arrive with a mix of emotions: anger, fear, frustration, sadness, hopelessness... and hope. They are drug or alcohol abusers and their families, hoping that their hearing will be the beginning of a new life — because the one they have now is simply unbearable.

Also traveling to Riviera Beach is **Judge Donald Hafele**, who volunteers one Saturday a month to listen to their stories and provide some hope to these people who so desperately need it.

Judge Hafele and the Civil Drug Court staff have listened to each and every one of these stories for nine years or more. **Patrick Doyle, Criminal Analyst, City of Riviera Beach Police Dept.; David Gillert, Manager of the Substance Abuse Awareness Program (SAAP); Maya Degapa, SAAP Assessor**, who, along with the judge, hope they can make a difference, that they can change paths and prevent the inevitable destruction of human lives, both the addicts' and the families. And so they listen.

This is Amanda. She is 25, and uses alcohol. Her husband tearfully explains that they have a wonderful life and loving relationship when she is sober, which is most of the time. Then out of the blue he will arrive home and the car is in the bushes, the children (8 and 4) are locked in their room and his wife is passed out on the floor. She is violent, a danger to herself and her children, and her husband begs Judge Hafele to place her in an inpatient facility. She has tried outpatient and it hasn't worked. Amanda does not want to go. She begs for one more day, but that is the purpose of the Marchman Act, which is what brought her here today. It is an involuntary commitment and the judge places Amanda in a 60 day program.

This is Erica. She is 22, and uses crack cocaine. She has four children, all in foster care, and her youngest baby is crack addicted. She sobbed when her Aunt explained that her mother had died when Erica was 17. Her mother was a crack user. She protested when her Aunt described how she earned her money for crack.

Not to be confused with the Circuit's Criminal Drug Court, the Civil Drug Court was started in 1993 by now-retired Judge Edward Rodgers.

Individuals arrive in Civil Drug Court as a result of a Marchman Act proceeding, whereby a family member has sought to force an individual into treatment for drug or alcohol abuse.

And she begged the judge for one more day to take care of things. She was transported directly to an inpatient program.

These and others like them have a common thread, which the judge and substance abuse officers say is present in most cases: they came from an environment of alcohol and drug abuse. It is Judge Hafele's task to hear what they have to say, and help look for the best possible treatment.

Not to be confused with the Circuit's Criminal Drug Court, the Civil Drug Court was started in 1993 by now-retired **Judge Edward Rodgers**, who was concerned to see that addicts had to commit a crime to receive state-funded treatment, which might have prevented the crime to begin with. The program — the first of its kind in the nation — allowed family members to petition the courts to have their family member committed to a treatment facility.

Judge Rodgers administered the program and presided over Saturday hearings at non-court, community venues from Riviera Beach to Delray Beach, until his retirement in 1995. **Judge Catherine Brunson** then took over administration of the program, coordinating court dates and seeking judges to volunteer for the hearings. Judges who volunteer to preside at the hearings see the people as they are introduced into the program, listen to their stories and decide on treatment. If they don't succeed, then their file goes for review in chambers by Judge Brunson — to determine if they go back into another program, a longer program, or for other sanctions. Judge Hafele has been the primary judge to preside over hearings for the past nine years. Other judges who have volunteered include: **Judges William Bollinger, Charles Burton, Roger Colton, Jack Cook, Sheree Cunningham, Kathleen Kroll, Elizabeth Maass, Karen Miller, John Phillips, Debra Moses Stephens, Kenneth Stern, Richard Wennet.**

Said Judge Hafele, "Each time I put on the robe, I hope I can make a difference" — and Drug Court has been an opportunity where he feels like he can.

MAGISTRATE KIRIGIN RECOGNIZED BY ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS

The Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers presented **General Magistrate Diane M. Kirigin** with The Gavin Letts Memorial Jurist of the Year Award at its Annual Symposium on May 4th in Tampa.

The award is given annually to a member of Florida’s judiciary who has made “the most outstanding contribution to the field of matrimonial law” in the preceding year. This is the first time that a general magistrate has been honored by the Academy.

Past recipients of the award have been various appellate and circuit court judges, and most recently **Justice Barbara Pariente** of the Supreme Court of Florida.

To help celebrate this accomplishment, the Administrative Office of the Court hosted a cake and coffee reception in the Judicial Dining Room on June 7th, attended by Magistrate Kirigin’s friends and colleagues.



Jean-Adel Williams, Magistrate Maxine Williams, Magistrate Kirigin, Judge Debra Moses Stephens and Robin Scher



Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll and Magistrate Kirigin



Rita Sinofsky, Magistrate Kirigin, Magistrate Tom Baker and Lori Noel

JUROR APPRECIATION MONTH

“Although we publicly recognize jurors only once a year during this special week, the judges of Palm Beach County are keenly aware of the dedication so many citizens show to our justice system by appearing for jury duty. We are grateful to them for fulfilling their duty to serve their state and country.”

Chief Judge Kroll

In recognition of the contributions and importance of all jurors, **Clerk and Comptroller Sharon Bock** and **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll** hosted the annual Juror Recognition Ceremony on April 30th at the Central Courthouse, to mark the beginning of Juror Appreciation Month.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout, Palm Beach County Bar Association President Manuel Farach, Chief Assistant State Attorney Alan Johnson, Palm Beach County Commission Chair Addie Greene and **West Palm Beach Mayor Lois Frankel** were guest speakers for the ceremony. Prospective jurors called to serve that day were the guests of honor.

Chief Judge Kroll welcomed the jurors and spoke to them about the three branches of government — the legislative, executive and judicial — emphasizing the importance of each.

Judge Kroll noted, “Although we publicly recognize jurors only once a year during this special week, the judges of Palm Beach County are keenly aware of the dedication so many citizens show to our justice system by

appearing for jury duty. We are grateful to them for fulfilling their duty to serve their state and country.”

Sharon Bock reminded the jurors, “This is a time when ordinary citizens can have an effect on government.”

Of the jurors’ participation, Alan Johnson said, “This is democracy at work.” Carey Haughwout said that “jurors help the people decide.” Manuel Farach talked of his love for history and democracy, and told the jurors that their service “is a small opportunity to give back.”

Addie Green presented a Proclamation declaring May 2007 as Juror Appreciation Month. She told the jurors that, when they see the plaintiffs and defendants, they should realize that they “hold that person’s life in the palm of their hand.”

Lois Frankel reminded jurors that they will encounter many people during their day in the courthouse and “most of those people will leave here and go on with their lives.” However plaintiffs and defendants in the case may not, because “this is their one shot to get justice and to make sure they get it right. And that one shot is you.”



Manuel Farach, Sharon Bock, Addie Green, Kathleen Kroll, Carey Haughwout, Lois Frankel, Alan Johnson

LAW WEEK 2007



Attorneys from the Public Defender's Office and the State Attorney's Office discuss the practical implications of their roles, with Law Week students.



Law Week Students engage attorneys in a discussion of their roles as prosecution and defense in challenging cases.



Canine demonstration at the end of a long day both informed and entertained Law Week Students, who were fascinated by the talent of both trainer and "student."

The **Fifteenth Judicial Circuit** collaborated with the **Palm Beach County Bar Association** to sponsor the annual celebration of Law Week, as promoted nationwide by the American Bar Association.

The 2007 program took place April 30th-May 4th, as 65 students participated in sessions held at each of the circuit's courthouses. The program is designed for high school students. Students from Spanish River High School, Boynton Beach High School and Suncoast High School constituted the majority of students attending this year's program.

Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll, Judge Jeffrey Colbath, Judge Jonathan Gerber and Judge Cory Ciklin offered a significant portion of their time during the week to the delight of the students. In all, twelve judges offered opportunities for the students to visit their courtrooms, where judges asked attorneys to provide explanations and demonstrations of courtroom processes.

During the lunch hour, members of the **Public Defender's Office** and **State Attorney's Office** shared their perspectives on their role in the judicial system, and said they were amazed at the talent demonstrated by the students. The majority of the student participants were enrolled in advanced placement (AP) Government classes at their schools and drew from their textbook knowledge as they applied "principles to practice" during their day at the courthouse.

Staff members from the **Office of the Clerk & Comptroller** spoke with the students about the function of the Clerk's office and career opportunities, and provided tours of evidence storage rooms. In the afternoon, students at the Central Courthouse received a tour of the holding cell facilities and a canine unit demonstration given by the **Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office** staff.

The event was orchestrated by **Court Education Program Consultant John McGovern** on behalf of the Fifteenth Circuit, and the Bar Association's Law Week Coordinator, attorney **Tanique Lee**.

Portions of the students' reactions to the program and the insights they gained can be viewed at:

<http://www.pbcgov.com/cadmin/newsletter/youthlawday/>

ANNUAL JUDGES-LAWYERS SOFTBALL GAME

“The Lawyers’ extra base power — three inside the park homers, six triples and four doubles — proved too much for the Judges’ softball team, as the Lawyers extended their winning streak over the Judges to four straight games, with a 23-5 win at John Prince Park on April 28th,” reported the Lawyers’ pitcher, **Dennis Koehler**, who was able to keep the Judges off balance with his wind-aided curve ball.

He went on to report that the team of distinguished local jurists, led by **Judge Mark Eissey**, were unable to overcome the absences of **Judges Richard Wennet** and **Judge Richard Oftedal**, whose extra base power was sorely missed. However, **Judge Jonathan Gerber** collected two hits and made a highlight reel catch at the left centerfield fence to rob lawyer **Andrew Polino** of extra bases in the second inning. **Judge Martin Colin** singled twice, and **Roland Tatum** was the Judges’ hitting star, collecting four singles in five trips.

Members of both teams’ families cheered their players on, and then joined the Lawyers and Judges immediately afterward at the annual picnic luncheon coordinated by **Bar Association Executive Director Patience Burns**.

Koehler summed the event up by saying, “This annual softball game and the opportunity for camaraderie with our fellow attorneys and judges who enjoy competitive softball is always great fun for everyone involved.”

As the judges were leaving the field immediately following the game, they were heard to mutter, “Wait ‘til next year!”



Back: Richard Stanley, Judge Colin, Judge Martz, Judge Gerber, Judge French, Judge Blanc
Front: Judge Wennet, Glenn Reed, Judge Marra, Roland Tatum, Judge Eissey



Pitcher
Judge Blanc



Kirk Volker, Phil Mugavero, Judge Wennet, Dennis Koehler, Judge Eissey, Tom Spall, Judge Martz, Stan Klett and Glenn Reed, with family members.

Circuit Hosts “Take Your Daughter/Son to Work Day”

On April 26th, the **Fifteenth Circuit, the Office of the Clerk of Court, the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, the Office of the State Attorney and the Office of The Public Defender** hosted 160 sons and daughters in the circuit’s annual Take Your Son/Daughter to Work Day.



Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll kicked off the event in Ceremonial Courtroom 11H, as she held her three foot gavel and proclaimed the commencement of the day’s activities.

The Clerk’s Event and Activities Specialist, **Martha Ann Kneiss** devised the master schedule and “fine tuned” all the arrangements which made the day memorable for all the children who participated. The theme of the day was “Revolutionizing the Workplace.”

Throughout the day, the children heard from noted public officials, including **Public Defender Carey Haughwout, State Attorney Barry Krischer, and Clerk and Comptroller Sharon Bock.**

Judge Peter Blanc and Judge Kenneth Stern each spoke about their experience as a judge.



Deputy Sheriff Rogers and Canine Yoda demonstrate how the dog reacts to a positive identification of explosive materials.



Adult coordinators attempted to arrange the mass of children into a group photo with the Chief Judge in the center, which was later transformed into a certificate awarded to each child who participated. A DVD of the day’s events is also in preparation.

In groups, the children got to visit the buildings and programs where their parents work, eat lunch with their parent, and tour various departments in each agency. The Evidence Room in the Clerk of Court’s office and the canine demonstration given by the Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office were big attention-getters.

In evaluations completed at the end of the day, when children were asked, “What did you like best about today?” the majority had only enough strength to pen the simplest of responses: “Everything!!!”

UFC/Social Service Coordination Program

The Community Alliance of Palm Beach County/Unified Family Court (CA/UFC) Social Service Component is a court based program under development since its conception in November 2005, which began implementation on April 2, 2007.

As a social service component to the unified family court, the program will assist children and families involved in complex cases (more than one court case, with multiple agency involvement) to achieve self sufficiency by convening group meetings with all agencies/individuals involved with the family, facilitating the effective delivery of services.

There are currently ten families in the program or in the process of joining. There has been a very positive response and cooperation from service providers and families in working with the program to help the families succeed.

On April 11th, UFC Social Service Coordination welcomed **Susan Brown, MPS**, to our staff through a grant funded by the United Way and Quantum Foundation. Ms. Brown is a Prosperity Center employee of Families First of Palm Beach County, but will work full time at the courthouse as a UFC Social Service Facilitator. She can be reached at 355-1961.



Susan Brown



Nathan Garlick

UFC Social Service Coordination is also happy to report a new BSW social work intern from Florida Atlantic University, who will be with the program for the summer. **Nathan Garlick** joined the staff with several years experience working in the substance abuse field. He will be on hand to help with the UFC Social Service

F.L.A.G. ANNOUNCES DATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD SUMMIT

The Fifteenth Circuit’s School Board Sub-Committee was formed to enhance communication between the judiciary and School Board Officials, and to educate the legal community about issues the school system faces when interacting with the court and interpreting court orders.

SAVE THE DATE:

This Committee will be hosting a School Board Summit on:

September 14th from 8:30-3:30

The Summit will take place in the Boardroom at the Palm Beach County School Board.

The keynote speaker will be **Justice Barbara Pariente**. Various workshops will be offered, with speakers to include: **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll, Magistrate Diane Kirigin, Magistrate Tom Baker, School Superintendent Art Johnson, Tammi Augen, Esquire and Debra Welch, Esquire.**

For more information please contact **Tammi Augen, Committee Chair** at 561-835-9091.

Coordination Program, Family Connection, and to assist with referrals and linkages to services for families in Family Court.

If you have any questions about this program or would like more information please contact **Mary Quinlan, LCSW**, UFC Social Service Coordinator, at 355-1925 or mquinlan@pbcgov.com.

F.L.A.G. DEPENDENCY SUMMIT



David Fairbanks, Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll, and John Copelan

On May 13th, the Fifteenth Circuit’s F.L.A.G. hosted the first local Dependency Summit at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach. **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll** welcomed over 150 participants to the Summit.

The goal of the Summit was to identify local and state issues that confront families using the court system and identify solutions. Several problems were identified and **John McCarthy**, Executive Director of Child and Family Connection (CFC), told participants that these issues were being addressed by DCF and CFC, the lead organization in the local privatized DCF system.

The keynote speaker, DCF Secretary **Robert Butterworth**, was unable to attend the Summit at the last minute; however, Assistant DCF Secretary **David Fairbanks** and **John Copelan** from DCF’s Office of General Counsel addressed the Summit.



Iola Mosely



Pam Wynn

Three workshops were offered. There was a session on school board policies for access to students and records and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act. Presenters were **Bruce Harris** and **Iola Mosely**. **Doris Carroll** from the Palm Beach County Substance Abuse Coalition and **Dr. George Woodley** from DCF presented a session on available, effective substance abuse and mental health treatment resources. **Jeff Gillen**, an attorney with DCF, presented an overview of the 2006 statutory changes to Chapter 39 and the recent case law decisions.

The Dependency Summit Committee worked closely with the Palm Beach County Bar Association’s Special Needs of Children Committee and Juvenile Practice Committee to coordinate the Summit. The Summit was also sponsored by **Buckingham, Doolittle and Burroughs; Malloy and Wynn, PA**, and **Migdal and Migdal, PA**.

Materials from the Summit will be posted on the newly designed FLAG section of the Court’s website in the upcoming months.

For further information please contact **Nicole Saunders** at 355-1764.



David Fairbanks addresses the Summit

Family & Community Partnership Faith-Based Organization Luncheon

On June 1st, **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll** and **UFC Social Services Coordinator Mary Quinlan** attended a Faith-Based Organization Luncheon, sponsored by the Children's Services Council, where members of faith-based organizations had an opportunity to meet with local leaders.

Representative **Priscilla Taylor**, Chief Probation Officer **Feirmon Johnson** and Children's Services Council Director **Tana Ebbole** spoke about the needs of families and children in Palm Beach County and how the faith community might assist. Chief Judge Kroll spoke to the group and emphasized the needs of families involved in the court system and introduced the UFC Social Service Coordination program.

Department of Juvenile Justice

Mary Quinlan and **Nicole Saunders** serve on the Palm Beach County Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Board representing the Fifteenth Circuit's Office of the Court Administrator.

Recently, the DJJ Board was able to advocate with state representatives and secure \$200,000 for portable classrooms at the Palm Beach Regional Juvenile Detention Center. The Detention Center has only two dedicated classrooms and, subsequently, the teachers have had to conduct many classes in the individual dorms, which are not an environment conducive to learning. With the addition of the two portable classrooms, the youth at the detention center will now have an opportunity to get an education in a more appropriate environment for students and teachers alike.

On June 25th, Deputy Secretary **Richard Davison** and Assistant Secretary **Ken Pifer** of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice visited Palm Beach County to discuss with community leaders the building of a new Juvenile Detention Center and Juvenile Assessment Center. This included a tour of the Juvenile Detention Center, followed by a publicly-noticed community meeting at the Juvenile Assessment Center on Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach.

COURTHOUSE TOUR PROGRAM

During the Spring 2007 semester, more than 600 students and adults visited the Central Courthouse and participated in a valuable civics lesson.

As a specific application of the Florida Supreme Court's Justice Teaching Initiative, launched by **Chief Justice Fred Lewis**, the Central Courthouse serves as the



Judge Baker always engages the attention of his student audience. Above, his Bailiff "cuffs" students who indicated their interest in attending law school, but did not express interest in Judge Baker's alma mater.

principal locus of this important educational initiative. Similar experiences are conducted at the Criminal Justice Complex under the leadership of **Judge Cory Ciklin**, who holds education as a priority and has demonstrated this through the program which he designed entitled "The Court's Public Education Program" (CPEP).

School groups, community groups and civics groups have come to the courthouses in great number during this past semester. An evaluation instrument was created by **John McGovern**, Court Education Program Consultant, in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of this education program and to build future strength into the program based on the experience, perceptions and wishes of participants.

To read comments and reactions please click on the link.

<http://www.pbcgov.com/cadmin/newsletter/youthlawday/>

COURT TECHNOLOGY

“Footballs”

Emergency Preparedness Mobile Communication kits, renamed by **Judge Jeffrey Colbath** as “footballs”, are bags containing multiple communication platforms — including cellular and satellite communications, text messaging, and wireless and Bluetooth technology. These allow judges and court staff an alternate means to communicate when conventional communications fail.

The bags are provided to all criminal administrative judges, satellite courthouses and key court administration personnel. For additional information contact **Noel Chessman** at 355-4406.

Digital Court Recording

Funding was received from the state which provides for digital court recording to be installed at the South County Courthouse. A central recording component, similar to the one at the Main Judicial Center, will be a part of the digital court reporting project in the South County Courthouse. This project will be installed in time for the opening of the new courthouse in Delray Beach.

For additional information please contact **Glenn Reed** at 355-4359

New Court Technology Employees

Please welcome:

Jakobie Alexander

Jakobie was formerly an employee an ISS (Information System Services) working as a Web Specialist.

George Howard.

George previously worked for a web-hosting company in Boca Raton.

Mary McLean.

Mary was serving with the United States Air Force in their technical support department.

For additional information on Court Technology please contact **Les Davis** at 355-6245.



Network Administrator Noel Chessman (far right) and Computer Specialist Mary McLean demonstrate satellite phone activation to Judge Jeffrey Colbath and General Counsel Amy Borman.



"Can you hear me now"? Judge Colbath and General Counsel Borman test 2 satellite phones as part of their emergency mobile.



Judge Jeffrey Colbath gives a "thumbs up" to General Counsel Amy Borman as they test satellite phones from the Court's mobile emergency communications kits.

Volunteers Are Needed for Court Programs

Volunteers are being recruited to assist in some vital programs at the various courthouses in the 15th Circuit

Program One:

Location: Central Courthouse, West Palm Beach

What: Courthouse tour leaders – “The Third Branch: Courthouse as a Civics Lesson”

Who: retired attorneys and or teachers familiar with judicial procedures and terminology. Training will be provided.

When: Three hours, one day per week; work in a team of three

Intended Audience: school groups and citizen groups

Other requirements: Application and Background Screening required

This program will expand once the restoration of the Historic Courthouse is completed and open to the public in March 2008

Program Two:

Location: North County Courthouse, Palm Beach Gardens

What: Library Assistant

Who: retired educators or librarians familiar with reference and research procedures

When: One day per week

Other requirements: Application required

Program Three:

Location: North County Courthouse, Palm Beach Gardens

What: Volunteer Guardianship Visitation Program – visit persons, many of whom are in nursing homes, who are under the guardianship of the court. (AARP program)

Who: Interested citizens; experience in social service administration preferred but not required.

Other requirements: must participate in initial training and training updates. Application and Background Screening required.

Program Four:

Location: South County Courthouse, Delray Beach

What: Volunteer Guardianship Visitation Program (*see Program 3*)

Program Five:

Location: South County Courthouse, Delray Beach

What: Volunteers to work in the Guardian Ad Litem program once a juvenile courtroom is opened in the new addition.

Who: Dedicated persons who wish to work three to five hours each week to be advocates for abused, abandoned or neglected children in Dependency cases – Juvenile Division. Special training required for all participants.

Persons interested in this program should contact the Guardian ad Litem office directly.

Recruiter: Ms. Katherine Bill (561) 355-2773

Qualified, interested persons should contact:

John E. McGovern

Court Education Program Consultant and Supervisor of Volunteer Programs

15th Judicial Circuit

Central Courthouse

205 North Dixie Highway, Room 5.1709

West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Tel: 561-355-1537.

Email: jmcgover@co.palm-beach.fl.us

Give: name, address, telephone and program of interest in email response or in phone response.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

The Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held at the Delray Beach Golf Club on May 18th. The event was co-hosted by the Office of Education for the 15th Circuit and the Special Events Coordinator for the Office of the Clerk and Comptroller.

More than 100 volunteers each month provide valuable service to the people of Palm Beach County by supporting the Administrative Office of the Court and the Clerk of Court in a variety of capacities at the Courthouses.

The most significant number of volunteers work at the South County Courthouse under the leadership of **Judge John Phillips, Judge James Martz, Judge Charles Burton, Judge Donald Hafele** and **Volunteer Coordinator Irene Rabinovitz**. Many of the volunteers work as monitors in the Guardianship division and spend hours each week either reviewing files or doing field visits to wards – many of whom live with relatives or in nursing homes.

Judge Kathleen Kroll and all of the judges working at the South County expressed their gratitude for the service of these dedicated persons.



Irene Rabinovitz, second from right, serves as Volunteer Coordinator at the South County Courthouse and is a constant source of inspiration to the volunteers who work under her direction.



Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll enjoys lunch conversation with a group of volunteers who are the mainstay of the Guardianship Monitoring Program at the South County Courthouse.

Clerk and Comptroller Sharon Bock also expressed her appreciation for the talent and dedication of the volunteers.

Court Education Consultant John McGovern

(Supervisor of the Volunteer Program) was the principal speaker at the event. He said that the dedication of the volunteers is valued at approximately \$250,000 of contributed services toward the needs of the citizens of Palm Beach County.

McGovern noted the theme “Each One, Reach One” in his plea for recruiting new volunteers for the growing needs of a variety of programs. He highlighted especially the need for new volunteers to work in the Guardian Ad Litem program, as a new juvenile courtroom is added with the completion of the expansion underway at the South County Courthouse.

McGovern noted the theme “Each One, Reach One” in his plea for recruiting new volunteers for the growing needs of a variety of programs.



Judge John Phillips, who involves many volunteers in monitoring Guardianship cases, speaks with court staff.

Photos
By Ed Russo
Special Programs
Manager,
Clerk &
Comptroller



Clerk and Comptroller Sharon Bock converses with a group of volunteers about their service in the office of the Clerk of the Courts.

CIRCUIT WELCOMES HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER KRISTA GARBER

Krista Garber joined the 15th Circuit on June 20th as Human Resources Manager.



In this role, she will provide assistance with the application of policies concerning benefits and leave; oversee maintenance of personnel records; participate in hiring, orientation and training functions and respond to inquiries concerning personnel related matters.

Originally from Nova Scotia, Canada, Krista attended Dalhousie University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Business Administration in Personnel Management. She was employed as Group Benefits Manager for London Life Insurance Company in both Winnipeg and Halifax, and later served as Director of Human Resources for Canada's largest privately owned travel company.

After relocating to the United States, Krista attended Florida Coastal School of Law and was a member of the first graduating class. She was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2000.

Most recently, Krista worked on a contract basis handling employment law issues for a law firm in Fernandina Beach, FL.

Immediately prior to accepting her position with the court, Krista moved from St. Augustine to Stuart, where she lives with her husband and their bullmastiff. Her personal interests focus on offshore sailing and making contemporary and pictorial quilts.

Enthusied to be back in HR management, Krista looks forward to meeting with court personnel in the upcoming weeks. She hopes to obtain feedback for use in implementing future HR initiatives and to enable her to better serve current employees.

Her office is located on the 5th floor of the Central Courthouse, next to the area occupied by Court Reporting. She can be reached at 355-2154.

LAW CLERK PROGRAM WELCOMES LILY CHANG AND 12 SUMMER INTERNS



The Trial Court Law Clerk Program welcomed Lily Chang, Esq. as the newest law clerk on June 4th.

Ms. Chang received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland in 2001 and her law degree from St. Thomas University School of Law in 2006. While at St. Thomas, she was awarded a full tuition and books merit scholarship for her three years of study.

Ms. Chang interned with Judge Mel Grossman in Broward County and also volunteered at the Guardian Ad Litem in Miami. Prior to attending law school, she was the Director of Communications at EveryTicket.com and was a Development Assistant at Jackson Memorial Foundation.

The Circuit's 12 summer interns represent seven law schools and ten undergraduate schools from around the country. They have been busy tackling research and appellate assignments as well as observing various civil and criminal trials.

Devon Bennett-Ward — University of Miami (undergraduate, University of Miami)

Nirav Jamindar — Florida Coastal University (undergraduate, State University of New York at Stony Brook)

Tracy Lizza — University of Florida (undergraduate, Loyola College)

Lauren Riggio — University of Florida (undergraduate, University of Florida)

Jason Seidman — Florida State University

The Trial Court Law Clerk program offers the law clerks and summer interns the opportunity to experience various aspects of the criminal and civil justice systems. Brown bag lunches have been arranged with the judges of the various divisions in order for the law clerks and interns to learn more about the judiciary and the practice of law. The law clerks and interns went on a tour of the juvenile detention facility and will be touring the main detention center during the latter part of the summer.

Judge Cory Ciklin is hosting the law clerks and interns to a morning of first appearances and a visit is planned with **Judge Nelson Bailey** at the West County Courthouse.

For more information, contact Amy S. Borman, General Counsel for the 15th Judicial Circuit, at 355-1927.

Meet the Summer Interns



Jason, Mike, Tracy, Alex, Rina, Ryan, Lauren, Nirav, Lindsay, Nick, Devon and Leah

(undergraduate, University of Central Florida)

Nick Janney — University of Miami School of Law (undergraduate, Indiana University)

Leah Cheatham — Cardozo School of Law (undergraduate, Florida State University)

Rina Kundalkar — Florida Coastal School of Law (undergraduate, Cornell University)

Michael McCarthy — Touro School of Law (undergraduate, University of Scranton)

Ryan McGee — Stetson University College of Law (undergraduate, University of Florida)

Lindsay Warner — Stetson University College of Law (undergraduate, University of Florida)

Alex Lloyd — University of Miami (undergraduate, University of Vermont)

STAFF PROFILE

Charles V. Smith

Charles V. Smith has been the messenger, supply delivery and mail clerk for Court Administration for 20 years.

Charles was born in West Palm Beach and moved to Riviera Beach at the age of 7. His father, Charles V. Smith, Sr., now deceased, was a supervisor in the City of West Palm Beach Recreation Department, and his mother, Floreeda R. Smith is a retired school teacher. Charles has two children, Nava and Brent and a sister Charlene.

Charles attended Lincoln Elementary, West Riviera Elementary and North Shore High School. He graduated from DiBacco School in Lake Worth and attended Palm Beach Community College.

Before being employed by the County, Charles worked for fifteen years as a baggage and express clerk for Greyhound Lines Inc., and also was employed by the Clerk of the Court for three years. His hobbies include fishing and reading.

Charles was recently hospitalized for a serious illness. Court staff celebrated his return to work with a “welcome back party.” Charles said he was, “Blessed and honored,” and he wishes “everyone all the best.”



Georgeanne Woelper, Witness Management assists Charles with cutting the cake.



Charles Smith thanks the group of court staff who arrived to welcome him back to work.

PERSONNEL

New Hires

Lily Chang
Trial Court Law Clerk
6/4/07
(see profile, page 15)

Krista Garber
Human Resource Manager
6/20/07
(see profile, page 14)

Promotions

Rosemarie LaRosa
Circuit Court Judicial
Assistant
4/5/07

Separations

Dolly Gibson
Court Program Specialist I
4/30/07

Lanice Wilson
Administrative Secretary I
6/5/07

Pamela White
Trial Court Law Clerk
5/18/07

Audrey Johnson
Trial Court Law Clerk
4/27/07

Howard Milchman
Court Operations Consultant
4/18/07

Separations

Jeanette Wilson
Court Reporter I
7/1/07

Hope Allan
Circuit Judicial Assistant
4/4/07

Kelly Chapman-Logal
Trial Court Law Clerk
4/18/07

Theresa Collins
Administrative Secretary I
5/31/07

THANK YOU!

As a part of Juror Appreciation Month the Palm Beach County Bar Association provided continental breakfast to the jurors each morning on April 30-May 3.

Law Library staff volunteered to serve the bagels and Don's Coffee Spot provided the coffee.

Guest appearances were made by some of the judges including, **Judge Timothy McCarthy** and **Judge Jorge Labarga** (pictured at right).



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

The following Administrative Orders were updated:

- 2 002 - Assignment of Judges (amended)
- 2.029 - 5/07 Duty Judge Roster (amended)
- 2.048 - 4/07 Appointment of Magistrates (amended)
- 2.070 - 6/07 Appointment of Circuit Judges as Acting County Judges / Appointment of County Judges as Acting Circuit Judges (amended)
- 4.001 - 4/07 Administrative Procedures in the Criminal Division (amended)
- 11.001 -6/07 Judicial Leave Policy (amended)
- 11.045 - 4/07 - Court Emergency Management Group (amended)

For a complete list of Administrative Orders please go to:

www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/cadmin

UPCOMING EVENTS

July

9th Memorial Service for Susan D. Ferrante
(3 pm in Courtroom 11A, Main Courthouse)

11th “The Creativity of Mediation”
Judge Janis Keyser *(1-3 pm in the cafeteria, Main Courthouse)*

**26th Law Clerks Brown Bag Lunch with
Probate, Family and Juvenile Judges**
(12 noon, Judicial Dining Room)

August

23-25th Mediation Conference,
Orlando, Florida.
(Held by The Dispute Resolution Center)

September

14th F.L.A.G. School Board Summit
Guest: Justice Barbara Pariente
(8:30-3:30, Palm Beach Co. School Board boardroom)



Please be advised, the newly implemented State of Florida Automated Attendance Reporting System for State Employees will be in effect July 2007.

