

# Circuit Courier

January-March 2007

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

## *THE 15TH WELCOMES FIVE NEW JUDGES*



*...AND BIDS FAREWELL TO  
A COURT ADMINISTRATOR*



JANUARY-MARCH 2007

# IN THIS ISSUE



**Chief Judge Kathleen J. Kroll**

In February, **Circuit Court Judge Kathleen J. Kroll** was re-elected to serve as Chief Judge of the Circuit for another two-year term, commencing July 1, 2007.

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# JUDGE TED BOORAS

**Judge Ted Booras** took the bench on January 2, 2007, as a County Court Judge assigned to the civil division.

Judge Booras graduated from Florida Atlantic University in 1983 with a B.A.A. degree in Criminal Justice, and earned his law degree from Nova University Law School. He began his legal career as a prosecutor in 1985, then spent six years in private practice before returning to prosecution in 1993, where he remained until his election to the bench. While at the State Attorney's Office, Booras served as Chief of the County Court division and as training director.

Before becoming a prosecutor, Booras spent twelve years in the Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary, achieving the rank of captain, and four years in the United States Marine Corps, where he earned an Honorable Discharge with the rank of sergeant.

Judge Booras' first assignment is to County Civil Division "RB," on the sixth floor at the Central Courthouse. He and his judicial assistant, **Eyder Orozco**, can be reached at 355-1955.

## Investiture of Judge Booras

The investiture of Judge Booras was held February 21st in the ceremonial courtroom of the Palm Beach County Courthouse.



Judge Ted Booras and his son, Dalton

The ceremony opened with an invocation by **Howard I. Weiss**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Judge Booras' son, **Dalton Booras**.

**Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll** delivered the opening remarks. The presentation of the Judicial Commission was made by **Sharon R. Bock**, the Clerk and Comptroller of Palm Beach County. Representing the Florida Bar Board of Governors, attorney **Gregory W. Coleman** presented a Bible. **Judge Walter N. Colbath**, a retired Circuit Court Judge and prior Chief Judge of the Fifteenth Circuit, administered the Oath of Office.

Judge Booras' mother, **Marie Durham**, and his son Dalton were given the honor of the enrobing. The gavel was presented by **Manual Farach**, Esquire, President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association. **Judge Laura S. Johnson** presented a plaque on behalf of the Conference of County Court Judges.

Other guests included **Denise Rappaport Isaacs**, Esquire (President of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association), **Richard Benrubi** (President of the Palm Beach County Justice Association), **Barry Krischer** (State Attorney) and good friend, attorney **Douglas N. Duncan**.

Judge Booras responded, thanking his family and friends, and his uncle, **Mickey Morgan**, gave the Benediction.



# JUDGE FRANK S. CASTOR

**Judge Frank S. Castor** took the bench on January 2, 2007 as a County Court Judge in the civil division.

Prior to taking the bench, Castor was a prosecutor in the State Attorney's Office for the Fifteenth Circuit from 1996 until his election in 2006. While there, he served as Deputy Chief of the Economic Crimes and Crimes Against the Elderly division.

Judge Castor received his bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University in 1992, and his law degree from Nova Southeastern University in 1996.

Judge Castor's first assignment is to County Civil Division "RJ," on the 4th floor of the Central Courthouse. His judicial assistant is **Marie McGeehan**. They can be reached at 355-1985.

## Investiture of Judge Castor

The investiture of Judge Castor was held March 2nd in the ceremonial courtroom of the Palm Beach County Courthouse.

The ceremony opened with remarks from **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll**, followed by the invocation by **Howard I. Weiss**.



Kerry and Katie Castor



Judge Castor, his wife, Rita, and his father, the Honorable Donald F. Castor

**Kerry and Katie Castor**, Judge Castor's daughters, led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang a beautiful rendition of "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

The presentation of the Judicial Commission was made by **Sharon R. Bock**, Clerk and Comptroller of Palm Beach County. A Bible was presented by attorney **Lisa S. Small** on behalf of the Florida Bar Board of Governors. Judge Castor's father, **Judge Donald F. Castor**, a retired Hillsborough County Judge, administered the Oath of Office. **Rita W. Castor**, Judge Frank Castor's wife, was given the honor of the enrobing.

The gavel was presented by **Manual Farach**, Esquire, President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, and **Judge Reginald R. Corlew** presented a plaque on behalf of the Conference of County Court Judges. Additional gifts were given by attorney **Marianne S. Rantala**, as Director of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association, and by **Harry A. Shevin**, as President of the Palm Beach County Justice Association. Attorney **Preston Mighdoll**, current Chief of the Economic Crimes & Crimes Against the Elderly Division of the State Attorney's Office, spoke of Judge Castor's dedication to the elderly.

**Reverend Rainer Richter**, Senior Pastor of St. Peter's United Methodist Church, gave the Benediction.

# JUDGE DAVID E. FRENCH

**Judge David E. French** took the bench on January 2, 2007 as a Circuit Judge in the civil division. Prior to his election to the bench, Judge French had his own practice, David E. French P.A., specializing in complex civil litigation. Before that, he was a partner at David and French, P.A., and from 1975-1982, he was a partner in one of Florida's oldest litigation firms, Wicker Smith, et al, P.A.

Judge French received his law degree from Cumberland School of Law, and a degree in finance from Florida State University.

His first assignment is to Circuit Civil Division "AD" on the 11th floor of the Central Courthouse. His judicial assistant is **Kim Massengill**. They can be reached at 355-1940.

## Investiture of Judge French

The investiture of Judge French was held February 16th in courtroom 11A of the Palm Beach County Courthouse. The ceremony opened with an invocation by **Father Theodore Ihedoro**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by **Judge Martin H. Colin**.

Opening remarks were delivered by **Judge Edward H. Fine**. The presentation of the Judicial Commission was made by **Sharon R. Bock**, Clerk and Comptroller of Palm Beach County. A Bible was presented by attorney **John G. White** as representative of the Florida Bar Board of Governors and Florida Bar President-elect Designate. **Judge Edward A. Garrison** administered the Oath of Office. **Christine French**, wife of Judge French, was given the honor of the enrobing.

The gavel was presented by **Manual Farach**, Esquire, President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association. Additional gifts were presented by: **Ted DiSalvo** as Director of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association, and **Harry Shevin** as President-elect of the Palm Beach County Justice Association.

**Judge Garrison** and Judge French's good friend, **Bill Wilmont**, made remarks on behalf of Judge French, and spoke of his passion for flying. A video was shown of Judge French flying his twin-engine Cessna Skymaster.

The ceremony closed with a Benediction, given by Father Ihedoro.



Christine French, wife of Judge French, was given the honor of the enrobing.



# JUDGE GLENN D. KELLEY

**Judge Glenn D. Kelley** took the bench on January 22, 2007 as a Circuit Judge in the civil division.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Kelley practiced law as a commercial trial lawyer in Palm Beach County for 24 years. He was a partner at Kelley & Warren, P.A. Judge Kelley received both his undergraduate degree and his law degree from the University of Florida.

Judge Kelley's first assignment is to Circuit Civil Division "AA," on the 9th floor of the Central Courthouse. His judicial assistant is **Monica Cardona-Matthews**. They can be reached at 355-1980.



Judge Kelley, Karen Kelley and Chief Judge Kroll

## Investiture of Judge Kelley

The investiture of Judge Kelley as Circuit Court Judge was held on March 23rd in the ceremonial courtroom of the Palm Beach County Courthouse.

The ceremony opened with an invocation by **Reverend Donn Brammer**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by **Amanda Schacht**.



Judge Kelley and his children

Opening remarks were delivered by **Chief Judge Kathleen J. Kroll**, and the presentation of the Judicial Commission was made by **Karen Heidtman**, Director of Legal Records for the Clerk and Comptroller of Palm Beach County. A Bible was presented by attorney **John G. White III**, as representative for the Florida Bar Board of Governors and Florida Bar President-elect. Chief Judge Kroll administered the Oath of Office, assisted by **Karen Kelley**. Judge Kelley's children, **Bryan, Michelle and Elizabeth**, were given the honor of the enrobing.

The gavel was presented by **Manual Farach**, Esquire, as President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association. Additional gifts were presented by: attorney **Denise Rappaport Isaacs** as President of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association, and by **Richard M. Benrubi**, President of the Palm Beach County Justice Association. Attorneys **Sidney A. Stubbs, Jr., William R. H. Broome** and **Richard B. Warren** made remarks on behalf of Judge Kelley. Reverend Brammer gave the Benediction.

# JUDGE ROBIN L. ROSENBERG

**Judge Robin L. Rosenberg** took the bench on January 2nd, 2007 as a Circuit Judge in the civil division.

Prior to her election to the bench, Rosenberg was a partner at Rosenberg and McAuliffe, in West Palm Beach. She has also served as partner at Holland and Knight, Vice President and General Counsel to Slim-Fast Foods, and Assistant City Attorney for West Palm Beach.

Judge Rosenberg received a bachelor's degree in Politics from Princeton, before receiving a master's degree in public policy and a law degree from Duke University.

Judge Rosenberg's first assignment is to Circuit Civil Division "AJ," on the 10th floor of the Central Courthouse. Her judicial assistant is **Rosemarie LaRosa**. They can be reached at 355-1950.

## Investiture of Judge Rosenberg

The investiture of Judge Rosenberg as Circuit Court Judge, was held February 2nd in courtroom 11A of the Palm Beach County Courthouse.



Michael McAuliffe, Judge James Paine and Judge Rosenberg



Judge Rosenberg and her family

The ceremony opened with an invocation by **Howard I. Weiss, Esquire**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by **Frank Behrman, Esquire**.

Florida Supreme Court **Justice Barbara J. Pariente** and the Fifteenth Circuit's **Chief Judge Kathleen J. Kroll** delivered the opening remarks. The Presentation of the Judicial Commission was made by **Sharon R. Bock**, Clerk and Comptroller of Palm Beach County. Attorney **Lisa Small** represented the Florida Bar Board of Governors in presenting the Torah to Judge Rosenberg.

**Senior Judge James C. Paine** of the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida, administered the Oath of Office. Judge Rosenberg's children, **Sydney, Madison and Adin** were given the honor of the enrobing.

The gavel was presented by **Manual Farach, Esquire**, as President-elect of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association. Other guest speakers included: **Howard S. Grossman, Esquire, Sydney Stubbs, Jr., Esquire**, and Judge Rosenberg's husband, attorney **Michael McAuliffe**. **Rabbi Howard Shapiro** gave the Benediction

# Trial Court Administrator Susan Ferrante Retires



After more than 20 years as Trial Court Administrator for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, **Susan D. Ferrante** retired in January.

As Trial Court Administrator, Ferrante worked side-by-side with eight successive Chief Judges, including **Judge Emery J. Newell**, **Judge R. William**

**Rutter**, **Judge Daniel T. K. Hurley**, **Judge Jack H. Cook**, **Judge Richard L. Oftedal**, **Judge Walter N. Colbath, Jr.**, **Judge Edward H. Fine** and current **Chief Judge Kathleen J. Kroll**, each serving one or more 2-year terms. With each presiding Chief Judge, Ferrante adapted Court Administration's priorities to meet the evolving demands of a rapidly growing county, addressing all judicial and non-judicial matters for the circuit — including financial and personnel matters, security, planning, technological developments and more. In a letter written by **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll**, Ms. Ferrante was praised for the circuit's many accomplishments during her administration.

Ferrante's tenure spanned two decades during which the ways in which court and governmental offices function has forever changed, with local, national and international events (such as the Oklahoma bombing, September 11th, the threat of mail terror attacks or a flu pandemic, and violence against judges, court personnel and attorneys) affecting everything from daily protocol to the material design of court buildings. This same period was categorized by a rapidly growing local population and changing demographics, and constantly evolving priorities for the courts — such as expanded awareness of domestic violence issues, new approaches to prevent recidivism in criminal courts or the escalation of problems with juvenile offenders, a new emphasis on unifying family courts and a focus on identifying issues specific to the elderly. Ferrante was involved in the development and construction of the Central Courthouse (opened in 1995) and ongoing expansion of satellite facilities. She spent the

*"Your leadership, direction and guidance have truly made the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit a model court for the state", Chief Judge Kroll said, adding, "It is with great respect and appreciation that I receive and accept your resignation, and forward to you the best wishes of all the judges of the Fifteenth Circuit. We shall miss you."*

*— Chief Judge Kroll in a letter to Ms. Ferrante*

last several years dealing with issues created by a change in the way the state finances the court system, shifting the burden of court funding from the counties to the state.

Ferrante received her bachelors degree from Barry University, and a masters degree in Public Administration from Troy State University. Before being appointed Trial Court Administrator in July 1986, she spent three years as Director of Administration for the Department of Engineering and Public Works for Palm Beach County.

The Circuit will be accepting applications for the position of Trial Court Administrator through April 20th. Court Operations Manager **Debra Oats-Ducram** serves as Acting Trial Court Administrator in the interim.



At the Board of County Commissioners meeting on February 6th, **Commissioner Mary McCarty** (center) presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Susan Ferrante in recognition of 21 years of dedication and contributions as Trial Court Administrator to the 15th Circuit Court. Pictured accepting the certificate for her are **Debra Oats-Ducram**(left) and **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll** (right).



# 15th WELCOMES VISITING JUSTICES



## U.S. Justice Alito Visits the Palm Beach Courthouse

**Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr.**, visited Palm Beach County on January 26th, five days before he was confirmed as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Justice Alito lunched at the Kravis Center with fellow judges and lawyers, courtesy of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, and spoke of the confirmation hearings he had endured for the past three months.

After lunch, Justice Alito had requested an opportunity to meet briefly with **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll** and any interested judges in the Judicial Dining Room at the Central Courthouse. As part of this visit, he joined Chief Judge Kroll for a tour of the courthouse. In a letter of appreciation after his visit, he stated that he had “never seen a better planned or more technologically advanced courthouse.”

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## Florida Justice Pariente Visits the 15<sup>th</sup>

On February 2nd, **Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente** visited the Fifteenth Circuit, interested in the progress made by the circuit’s implementation of a Unified Family Court (UFC) and the issues the circuit faces.

Justice Pariente met with **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll**, UFC Operations Manager **Nicole Saunders**, Family Court Manager **Michelle Spangenberg** and UFC Social Service Coordinator **Mary Quinlan**.

Justice Pariente was especially enthused about the Social Service Component of UFC and applauded the circuit for its efforts and innovation. The justice stated that she will continue to follow the progress in the Fifteenth Circuit.



# COURT PROGRAM NEWS

## Family Law Advisory Group

To foster meaningful collaboration between the courts and the community, the Fifteenth Circuit has an active Family Law Advisory Group (FLAG). This committee is comprised of stakeholders from the court, the legal community, service providers and other agencies who are involved in the court system.

Each year, a large group meeting is held and subcommittees are formed based on the issues identified by the group. Several subcommittees were formed this year — but most notably, it was decided that the Circuit will host a summit dealing with the Dependency System and a summit to address issues regarding the Court and Legal Community's Interaction with the School Board.

The Dependency Summit will be held on May 4th, and the School Board Summit will be held in late July or early August. As the dates approach, more information will be available.

Contact **Nicole Saunders** at 355-1764 for additional information.



## TRAINING

**John Walsh**, with Foster Care Children's Project at the Legal Aid Society, conducted a training session on March 20th at the Main Courthouse. Mr. Walsh discussed custody arrangements relating to the dependency system.

## OSCA Assessing Domestic Violence Issues

The State Court Administrator's Court Improvement Office has initiated a strategic planning process to identify and prioritize domestic violence related issues in Florida's courts and to develop plans to address those issues.

**Nicole Saunders**, Domestic Violence Coordinator, was selected to participate in a focus group to inform the strategic planning process, and attended a focus group meeting on February 23rd in Tallahassee at the Florida Supreme Court Building. The group has identified domestic violence issues from around the state and will work on prioritizing the issues and will make suggestions for court responses or actions. For more information contact Ms. Saunders at 355-1764.

## Family Law Practice Committee/South Palm Beach County Family Law Practice Committee

The Family Law Practice Committee and the South Palm Beach County Family Law Practice Committee held their annual Joint Meeting at the Columbia Restaurant in City Place on March 23rd.

Anyone interested in future meetings should contact **Thomas J. Sasser**, Committee Chair, at 689-4378.

# Community Alliance/UFC: A Social Service Component

In 2005, **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll** and the Community Alliance (CA) of Palm Beach County began collaborating to develop a social service component of the Unified Family Court (UFC). Through numerous workgroups and community meetings, a model was chosen for Palm Beach County.

**Mary Quinlan**, a licensed clinical social worker, is the Social Service Coordinator for the Unified Family Court Program. Says Quinlan, “We are very excited to announce the implementation of this program on April 2nd.”

The CA/UFC Social Service Component is a court-based program that will assist children and families involved in complex cases (identified as more than one court case, with multiple agency involvement) to achieve self sufficiency by convening large group meetings with all agencies/individuals involved with the family, and effectively facilitating the delivery of services.

Development of the program began with an assessment phase which included surveying court files, stakeholders in the community and model programs throughout the country. From assessment, the program moved into a protocol development phase, which is now completed.

On February 14th, the circuit held a large community education meeting about the program with over 45 agency directors in attendance. There was an additional meeting on March 7th to gain input from the agencies to finalize the procedures for the program. Says Quinlan, “We have had a very positive response and invaluable input from local service providers.”

For more information, please contact Mary Quinlan, LCSW, at 355-1925 or [mquinlan@pbcgov.com](mailto:mquinlan@pbcgov.com).

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## *Family Connection Welcomes Donations*

*Donations of books, interactive board games, puzzles, toys and G-rated movies are always needed.*



## Family Connection

The Family Connection Supervised Visitation Program operates on weekends at the Central Courthouse, and provides three levels of supervised visitation (sight only, sight and sound, and intensive guided interaction). It also provides two levels of monitored exchange, allowing parents to exchange their children in a secure setting without having to interact with each other. Parents in this program have unsupervised visitation with their children, but need a secure, supervised facility where they can exchange their children. Supervised visits are for two hours.

The program is currently serving 34 families, including 50 children, and is without a waiting list. Its location at the Central Courthouse helps enhance the safety of the clients when coming to visitation. An off-duty Sheriff's deputy is onsite during visits, helping staff and families feel more secure.

This past year, the program added an additional fifteen 15 monitors, five of whom are bilingual to serve Spanish speaking clients. The judges have instituted a six-month time limit on orders, with status conferences set at five months to determine if a family should remain in the program. More frequent judicial oversight allows families to address issues that might otherwise be overlooked and helps eliminate the use of the program as a long term solution, which opens up program space to assist more families.

If you would like to make a donation or if you have any questions about this program, please contact **Mary Quinlan** at 355-3200.



## Criminal Division News

The Chief Judge has established a Committee that has been charged with streamlining the processing of criminal cases. Individuals from the Judiciary, State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Public Safety, Clerk and Comptroller's Office, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Justice Commission and Court Administration attended the committee's first meeting, held February 12th.

Items discussed included: creating a system to check on whether persons with bonds of \$5,000 or less bond out within 3-5 days; creating a system to ensure prisoners are brought over only when actually needed in court for substantive action, and creating a system to allow for release of persons who both the state and defense agree should be allowed out of jail either on bond or due to a plea agreement.

Many of the agencies agreed to additional tasks to ensure the committee goals are met. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10th at 12:00. For more information please contact **Michelle Spangenberg** at 355-4657.

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## Judicial Luncheon Series

The Judicial Relations Committee is once again presenting a series of luncheons with the judges in the Judicial Dining Room at the Central Courthouse.

The first luncheon was held on February 23rd, with **Judges Jonathan Gerber, Kenneth Stern, Timothy McCarthy and Elizabeth Maass** discussing the topic "Effective Opening Statements at Trial."

A second luncheon was held March 23rd, with **Judges Peter Blanc, David Crow, Ken Marra and Jeffrey Winikoff** presenting "Effective Closing Arguments at Trial."

*Watch for announcements of the third luncheon in the series, which will be held on April 13th (topic and guest judges to be announced).*

## Probate Division: Elder Justice Center News

The Elder Justice Center has expanded their services to include an Elder Law paralegal. **Paula Wier** will be assisting litigants age 60 years or older by providing procedural guidance for Landlord Tenant, Mortgage Foreclosures, Real Property issues, consumer information, employment and public benefits such as social security, Medicare, Medicaid, unemployment compensation and similar matters.

Therefore, please feel free to refer litigants meeting the above criteria her way! Ms. Wier's office is located on the second floor of the Main Courthouse.

Elder Justice is in the process of developing a schedule to provide services to each of the annexes. For more information, the Elder Justice Center can be reached at 355-4385.



# LAW LIBRARY NEWS

## North County

The North County branch of the Law Library is now open. It is located on the first floor of the North County Courthouse. Access to the library can be obtained by signing in at the front desk and leaving a picture ID or Bar card. Although there are currently no books available, there is a telephone with direct access to staff at the Main Courthouse Law Library, and computers have been set up with limited internet access and free Westlaw. The facility is being used mostly by North County attorneys; there are plans to have volunteers present during specific hours to help the general public.

## South County

During phase two of the South County build-out project, the books in the law library will be boxed and stored. Librarian **Pat Judge** will have an office space to work from and the following services will be available: copiers, Westlaw, fax, TV rental, CLE tape rentals, word processing and stamped envelopes. A document delivery service will be provided through contact with the librarians at the Main Courthouse when possible.

## Main Courthouse

The law library has provided Westlaw and Lexis training to all law clerks and most of the new judges. Training for the public is also being held monthly and all court staff is invited to participate.

### Current Services Available:

Copying	Word processing
Form orders	Conference rooms
Courtesy phone	TV/DVD/VCR rental
Stamped envelopes	Cover sheets
Fax service	CLE tapes for rent

Please visit our website at:

<http://www.pbcgov.com/cadminlawlibrary/>

*The Law Library now offers  
free Westlaw access at the Main  
Courthouse and North and  
South County branches*

## Drug Court

The Drug Court Team, led by **Judge Cory J. Ciklin** and **Judge Paul O. Moyle**, is busy planning new strategies, which will result in an even better and more efficient Drug Court for the Circuit.

**Juvenile Drug Court Training**, was held March 26th-30th at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa.

**2007 Florida Drug Court Training Conference** will be held April 26th-27th at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando.

For questions regarding Drug Court, please contact: **Dorrie Tyng**, Drug Court Coordinator, at 688-4530.



Judge Cory Ciklin (left) and Judge Paul Moyle (right)

## 2007 Volunteer Mediators' Training "Off to a Great Start"

"Volunteer mediation training is off to a great start for 2007," says Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) office Director **Tom Caprio** of the continuing education programs that ADR coordinates for volunteer mediators to meet their certification requirements.

On January 19th, **Judge Peter Evans** taught the basics of Landlord/Tenant law. Mr. Caprio described Judge Evans as "brilliant on the bench" and "a witty and thoroughly engaging educator," adding that the Judge's PowerPoint presentation "was visually entertaining and made the information easily accessible to the mediators."

In February, **Paul Schweinler**, LMHC, NCC, DAPA (a Board Certified Expert in Traumatic Stress) presented a training session on domestic violence issues — which is now a requirement of continuing mediation education recertification. Mr. Caprio notes that most of the small claims volunteer mediators are attorneys or business people, and previously unfamiliar with the material. "They were very interested and complimentary about the professional approach of this very learned specialist."

On March 9th, **Judge Ted Booras** took up the reins to complete the second half of an Ethics training session, which was started December 15th by **Sharon Press**, Director of the Dispute Resolution Center for the Office of the State Courts Administrator. Said Caprio, "It was a treat to see Sharon and get the most recent changes to the Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators 'straight from the horse's mouth.'" And he praised Judge Booras for effectively continuing with the remainder of the information Press's time constraints had left uncovered. "Judge Booras added amusing slides and presented the statistics related to the various mediation grievances in a most meaningful way. He is an excellent public speaker and definitely held the attention of our mediators."

*"We have in fact, some of the best mediators in the State. Ask any of our County Judges and they will tell you what an amazing job they do for us!"*

— ADR Director Caprio

In the coming months, Director Caprio and **Mary Ellen Feinberg**, Mediation Program Coordinator, will continue with bimonthly training sessions. "**Judge Janis Keyser** has already agreed to be one of our presenters this summer," Mr. Caprio says. "She is considering addressing the topic of the

## ADR Office Welcomes Back Alan Kahn

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) office welcomed **Alan Kahn** as the newest in-house county staff mediator.



Mr. Kahn started employment with the ADR Office on March 1st, after recovering from extensive spinal surgery. He has a law degree from New York University School of Law and will be serving as a part-time county mediator 30 hours per week.

ADR Director **Tom Caprio** was glad to welcome Mr. Kahn back to the Circuit. "What excites us most about Alan is, even though he is our newest mediator, he actually has an extensive background in mediation, including family, county, dependency and appellate mediations."

Prior to his recent hire, Mr. Kahn assisted ADR as a contract mediator for family cases and provided *pro bono* mediation services for the Small Claims Pre-Trial courts (2002-2007). He has also provided mediation services in the private sector, and he served as an appellate mediator for the Fourth District Court of Appeals, where he created and managed a mediation program for three years. In addition, he was the director of the Fifteenth Circuit's ADR office from 1992-99.

Caprio said, "His familiarity with the Palm Beach County Court System and his experience in mediation will serve him well as he assists the ADR Office in providing more county mediation slots for the residents of Palm Beach County. We are excited about our new addition knowing that he makes a great ADR program even better."

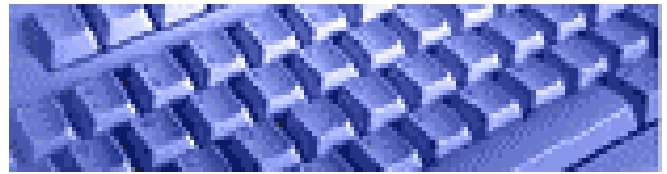
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creative options available only through mediation. That would be a fascinating discussion!"

For more information, contact the ADR Office at 355-2739.



# COURT TECHNOLOGY



## Court email to migrate to Microsoft Outlook

Court Administration is participating in a network migration project to a Microsoft-based environment known as “active directory.” Though transparent to the user, the active directory structure governs file rights, user accounts and the servers’ communications with each other. The project will culminate in the migration away from the currently-used Novell product line, and Microsoft Outlook will replace GroupWise as the county email software by year’s end, according to the current project plan. Systems Network Administrators **Glenn Reed** and **Noel Chessman** represent Court Administration on a countywide technology committee responsible for the scope development, requirements gathering, implementation and oversight of the new systems. Contact Reed or Chessman for more information.

## Media Department Grows

Court Technology has expanded its offered services to include media projects — with new services including video and still photography, and assistance developing Powerpoint presentations and other media formats. A new web site detailing the services offered, as well as downloadable Powerpoint templates and an interactive online service request form, will be published internally in the next month. For questions or suggestions regarding this project or the services to be provided, please contact Noel Chessman.

## County Inventory Complete

Court Administration recently completed its annual county inventory reconciliation of fixed assets (property valued in excess of \$1,000). CT System Administrator **Jack Winn III** — under the supervision of Budget & Finance Director **Amy Robinson** — coordinated the barcode scanning of over 1,100 items valued in excess of \$2.5 million. The project was completed on time and exceeded the county requirement that 99% of dollar value be physically accounted for, a feat that is difficult in an environment with many mobile devices, such as laptops.

In addition, **Felix Rodriguez** (Omar) and **James Montada** were responsible for scanning all furniture valued in excess of \$1,000. County inventory reconciliation is a three-month project that occurs mostly after hours to avoid business disruption in the five courthouses. Each member of Court Technology and storeroom staff volunteered for additional shifts starting as early as 6:00 a.m. or ending as late as 10:30 p.m. In addition to the county inventory, staff is also charged with the annual reconciliation of the state inventory.

## New Staff on the way

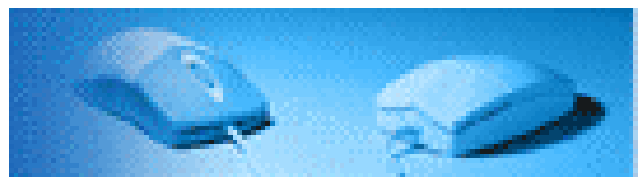
Interviews for three vacant Computer Specialist II positions concluded recently and recommendations were made for hiring three candidates effective April 1st. These positions will provide much needed support for the expanding services to the courts, with an emphasis on quality of service in the satellite courthouses, digital court recording technical quality assurance and developing innovative web services for the judiciary.

## Court staff provides Banner training for other agencies

Court Technology’s **Terry Stanley** recently conducted a “train the trainer” Banner CJIS (Criminal Justice Information System) workshop for the Boynton Beach Police Department. Ms. Stanley developed the curriculum, which focuses on educating key contacts within an agency so they can train their staff.

In addition to training court administration and judicial staff for the new Banner system, Ms. Stanley has conducted CJIS “train the trainer” workshops for numerous county, state and federal agencies over the last six months, including: U.S. Department of Corrections, Florida Department of Corrections, Palm Beach County Attorney’s Office, Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, Palm Beach County Public Safety, Florida Department of Children & Families, and various municipal police departments, including the City of West Palm Beach.

Ms. Stanley has specialized in Banner’s civil implementation and criminal development since joining Court Technology in 2004. Prior to that, she worked for the Clerk & Comptroller for 15 years, the final four of which were on the Clerk’s Banner civil core and training teams. For additional information about the Banner system, she can be reached at 355-6745 or by emailing [tstanley@pbcgov.com](mailto:tstanley@pbcgov.com)



### Attorney Amy S. Borman Hired as General Counsel



In January, Chief Judge Kroll announced the hiring of attorney **Amy S. Borman** to fill a new role for the Circuit, that of General Counsel.

As General Counsel, Borman will render legal services to the Court, as well as oversee the law clerk program, civil process server's certification program, traffic hearing officers, all legal actions and press relations; review and update all Administrative Orders, and monitor legislation important to the courts.

Borman received a bachelors degree in Criminology and Law from the University of Florida in 1988, and her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1992.

Admitted to the Florida Bar in October, 1992, she spent three years in private practice in Boca Raton before becoming an Assistant Legal Advisor to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. She has spent the last nine years raising her children, working part-time and teaching a variety of law courses at Florida Atlantic University, Lynn University and Nova Southeastern University.

Having grown up in a family of attorneys (her father is local attorney Leonard Singer), Borman has always focused her work opportunities in the legal community. She interned during the summers of 1985 and 1986 at the Public Defender's Office in the Fifteenth Circuit. After graduating early from college, she completed a one-year internship at the Federal Pretrial Services Office. While at Georgetown, Borman participated in the nationally recognized Criminal Justice Clinic and taught LSAT-prep courses for the Stanley Kaplan Educational Center.

She lives in Delray Beach with her husband Perry, and their two daughters Rachael (age 9) and Madison (age 6).

Her office is on the 5th floor of the Central Courthouse, near the Chief Judge's chambers. She can be reached at 355-1927.

## New Hire Spotlight:

# John E. McGovern Hired as Court Education Program Consultant

**John E. McGovern** commenced his duties as Court Education Program Consultant on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

In his new role, will be spearheading the local Justice Teaching Initiative, as well as coordinating courthouse tours, overseeing the volunteer program and coordinating training for judges and court staff.

McGovern has more than 30 years' experience in the education field, having served a full range of roles – from classroom teacher thru Superintendent of Schools. He worked in Washington, DC, as the Public Policy Researcher/Analyst for the National Catholic Educational Association. Later, while serving as Director of Education for the Congregation of Holy Cross, he traveled nationally and internationally to the many educational works sponsored by this major teaching order of the Catholic Church, which sponsors educational institutions at every level.

He acknowledges his 13 trips to Africa as the major learning experience of his life. Following the genocide in Rwanda, he worked to assist orphaned children get resettled in schools.

Since his relocation to Florida, he worked as an advocate for abused, abandoned and neglected children with the Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program. During his career, he has successfully raised funds for several major curriculum improvements in schools, and he has been a fundraising consultant for various not-for-profit groups which render service to children in the dependency court system.

His undergraduate degree is from Stonehill College in Massachusetts, and he holds graduate degrees from Fairfield University in Education Administration and Psychology, and from Fordham University in Education Policy/Leadership.

In his spare time, he has completed the reconstruction of a 50 year old, ten rank (880 pipes) pipe organ in his residence in Boynton Beach. The instrument was rescued from a church in New Jersey which was planning to replace a pipe instrument with an electronic instrument.

McGovern's office is located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Central Courthouse. He can be reached at 355-1537.





## STAFF PROFILE

### MEET THE LAW CLERKS

There are 14 law clerks in the Fifteenth Circuit — 12 at the Main Courthouse, and one each at the North County and South County Courthouses.



The law clerks not only provide research for the Judges, but they also coordinate and prepare bench memoranda for civil and criminal appeals, prepare orders for the Judges and draft responses to various writs filed by inmates.

**Giev Askari** grew up on an ostrich farm in rural Davie, Florida. Giev has an LLM in Taxation from NYU and enjoys playing the piano. He has an eight month old daughter.

The sportsman of the group is **Ashley Cross-Rappaport**, who competed extensively in Hunter/Jumper equestrian sports and was a professional riding instructor while attending Florida Atlantic University. Ashley finished her undergraduate work at University of Florida where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and attended law school. In law school, she was the Chairperson for the Public Interest Environmental Conference, one of the largest student-organized conferences in the country. Ashley is currently the Civil Division Coordinator and plans to work in probate and appellate law when her clerkship is completed.

The musically inclined law clerk is **Shavarne Dahlquist** who plays the flute and piccolo, and sings and dances. Shavarne received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from the University of Florida. She then attended Barry University School of Law where she received her juris doctorate with a concentration in Children and Family Law.

**Jen Hogue**, the daredevil of the group, is trained in Muay Thai, a martial art from Thailand and has been an instructor for seven years. Jen also enjoys skydiving and has traveled all over the world. Jen received her undergraduate degree in International Business with a concentration in Finance from Illinois State University, and received her law degree from the University of Miami.

Shaib, Pam, Julia, Shavarne, Ashley, Giev, Jen and Rangile

**Shaib Rios** received a bachelor of arts in History at the University of Florida, where she also minored in Criminology. While in law school, she was a Public Interest Law Fellow and served as a mediator for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Clinic. She obtained her law degree from Nova Southeastern University in May of 2006, with an academic concentration in transactional law.

**Rangile Santiago** is a native of Florida, now living in Delray Beach with her husband and three children (ages 12, 9 and 1½). Rangile has five horses boarded on the 15 acre ranch where she resides. Rangile received her bachelor's degree from Florida Atlantic University and her law degree from St. Thomas University School of Law. Formerly a Family Case Manager with the Fifteenth Circuit, Rangile's primary interest is (not surprisingly) Family, Juvenile and Real Estate law.

**Pamela White** is also a native Floridian. She received her undergraduate from Florida State University and her law degree from Nova Southeastern University. Pam is the mother of a 24 year old Sergeant in the United States Army. Her son has served a tour of Afghanistan and two tours of Iraq.

**Julia Wyda Ledis** completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Miami and then received her law degree from the Washington and Lee School of Law in Virginia. Julia worked as a summer associate at Wharton, Aldhizer and Weaver in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and interned during her third year of law school at the US Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia. Julia is currently the Criminal Division Coordinator.

# PERSONNEL

## New Hires

Maureen Carroll  
County Judicial Assistant  
1/2/2007

Rosemarie Larosa  
Legal Secretary  
1/2/2007

Kimberly Massengill  
Circuit Judicial Assistant  
1/2/2007

Eyder Orozco  
County Judicial Assistant  
1/2/2007

Irene Rabinovitz  
Senior Secretary  
1/2/2007

Amy Borman  
General Counsel  
1/4/2007

Carole Knight  
Electronic Transcriber  
1/4/2007

Jennifer Hogue  
Trial Court Law Clerk  
1/16/2007

Denise VanVooren  
Rehire County Judicial Assistant  
1/16/2007

Monica Cardona-Matthews  
Circuit Judicial Assistant  
1/22/2007

John McGovern  
Court Program Education  
Consultant  
2/5/2007

Alan Kahn  
County Mediator  
3/1/2007

Trinidad Parham  
Court Program Specialist 1  
3/5/2007

Farhana Peck  
Budget Specialist  
3/5/2007



John McGovern, the Circuit's new Court Education Program Consultant, meets with representatives from the League of Women Voters during a courthouse tour for a discussion of enhancing civics education.

## Separations

Susan D. Ferrante - 1/3/2007  
Robin Robinson - 1/12/2007  
James Sweet - 1/16/2007  
Robin Shepett - 2/2/2007  
Clemencia Decastro - 2/28/2007  
Tobi Perl - 3/9/2007  
Amanda Pollok - 3/20/2007  
Marie Stevens - 3/31/2007

# ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

The following Administrative Orders were updated:

2.002 - 1/07	Assignment of Judges
11.003 - 2/07	Seniority of Judges
07-12.015 - 2/07	Interim Policy on Electronic Release of Court Records
11.024 - 2/07	JA Entry Rate of Compensation
4.001 - 3/07	Administrative Procedures in Criminal Division
7.006 - 3/07	Assignment of Delinquency & Dependency Cases
5.001 - 3/07	Unified Family Court Jurisdiction

For a complete list of Administrative Orders please go to:

[www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/cadmin](http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/cadmin)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### April

- 12 Court Media Workshop** (1-3 p.m., north end of Central Courthouse Cafeteria; contact: Debra Oats-Ducram 355-4495)
- 13 Judicial Luncheon Series** (Topic and guests TBA)
- 25 Palm Beach County Bar Association's Annual Judicial Luncheon**
- 26 Take Your Son/Daughter To Work Day**  
(Contact: Letitia McDonald 355-1847)
- 26-27 Florida Drug Court Training Conference**  
(Contact: Dorrie Tyng 688-4530)
- 28 Annual Judges/Lawyers Softball Game** (8:30 a.m.; contact: Judge Mark Eissey or his J.A., Liz Caplano, 355-1803)

### May

- 4 Dependency Summit**  
(Contact: Nicole Saunders 355-1764)
- 11 Estate Planning: Protecting Your Family** (noon-1:30 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room; to register call 1-866-446-9377)
- 18 "The Creativity of Mediation"** by Judge Janis Keyser  
(1-3 pm in the cafeteria, Main Courthouse)

FVI  
FYI

Florida minimum wage,  
effective  
January 1, 2007, is  
\$6.67/hour

