

Circuit Courier

April-June 2008

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

In Memoriam:

Circuit Judge
Jeffrey A. Winikoff
1949-2008

Florida Supreme Court Justices
visit

Judge Gerber: Jurist of the Year -
North County

Judge Phillips: Jurist of the Year -
South County

Jury Appreciation Month

Law Week

Drug Court Month

And more...





On the Cover: Judge Barry Cohen addresses the audience during the Supreme Court Justices' visit.

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JUDGES IN OUR COMMUNITIES

On May 17, 2008 **Judge Moses Baker**, Circuit Judge, Juvenile Division, was presented with the "My Teacher, My Hero" award at the 4th Annual Awards Gala held at the Kravis Center.

This award recognized "the Honorable Judge Moses Baker for his life-altering impact on the lives of students through an Alternative to Suspension Program, in conjunction with Inlet Grove Community High School."



This was truly an all-star event with special guests: Hank Aaron, Congressman Alcee Hastings, Rep. Priscilla Taylor and performing, singer Nancy Wilson.

We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill

Judge Ronald V. Alvarez, is known as a tireless advocate for the children in our community.

He was appointed to the bench in 1993 and has spent the majority of that time in the juvenile division where he is currently presiding.

Judge Alvarez serves our community in various roles including: the Board of Directors for the Children's Services Council; Board of Directors and Grant Management Committee of the Palm Beach County Community Foundation and he was also a judge for an essay contest called "Do The Rite Thing". (The winner of this contest was given an all expenses paid



trip to Washington sponsored by the country of Kuwait, as a show of appreciation to America for their help in the Gulf War.)

Judge Alvarez has received numerous awards including "Jurist of the Year-2006" from the Florida chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. At the awards ceremony, President Bill Hahn of Tampa said that Judge Alvarez has made an "impact in Florida's courts and in his community."

Court Mourns the Passing of Circuit Court Judge JEFFREY A. WINIKOFF

Jeffrey A. Winikoff
1949-2008

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit mourns the passing of Judge Jeffrey A. Winikoff on Tuesday June 17, 2008.

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Winikoff was elected to the bench as a Circuit Judge for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Palm Beach County in January 2003. He was recently assigned to the civil division.

Born in the Bronx, New York, and raised in Spring Valley, New York, Winikoff obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Civilization from Brandeis University, an MBA from Babson College, and a Juris Doctor, with high honors, from Cleveland State University. He spent some time as a civil prosecutor for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C.

Prior to election to the bench he specialized in securities and condominium law with his law firm, Stein, Rosenberg, & Winikoff.

Judge Winikoff was political by nature and served as President of the West Boca Raton Community Council from 1997 until his election to the bench.

Judge Winikoff is survived by his wife, Ellen, a long time teacher in the Palm Beach County School System, his sons Benjamin and Samuel, and his parents, Douglas and Frances Winikoff.

The 15th Circuit is planning a memorial service to be held in the Main Judicial Center on Thursday August 7, 2008 at 4 p.m. in Courtroom 11A.



Judge Jeffrey A. Winikoff

"All members of our County's Judiciary were, and are, proud to have been colleagues of Jeffrey Winikoff. He personified everything a Judge should be - intelligent, caring, fair, cordial, courteous, and a person of total integrity. His untimely passing is a great loss for our entire community."

Judge Kenneth D. Stern , Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

"Since the first time I met my friend in 1994, I knew he was a very special person. A true gentleman. A person of his word. A good and decent man. Here's looking up at you, Jeff!"

Judge Cory J. Ciklin, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

"Over the past several years, whenever I was down and needed a lift, I'd go visit my friend Jeff. I'd always leave his office smiling and laughing. Today the entire Court is in mourning .We need someone to lift our spirits. But our friend Jeff is missing. And he's not coming back."

Judge Tim McCarthy, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

15th Hosts “Conversation with State Supreme Court Justices”



Glenn Reed, Court Technology, runs the powerpoint game show presented by Justice Quince and Justice Pariente.

On Saturday May 10, 2008 Florida Supreme Court Justices The **Honorable Peggy Quince**, who became Chief Justice in July and The **Honorable Barbara Pariente** (former Chief Justice), were the keynote speakers for “A Conversation with Judges”, sponsored by Barry Krischer, State Attorney and the Civil Rights Unit of the State Attorney’s Office.

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit hosted in courtroom 11D. In attendance were many judges from the 15th Circuit including: **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll, Ronald Alvarez, Nelson Bailey, Peter Blanc, Lucy Chernow Brown, Barry Cohen, Laura Johnson, James Martz, Nancy Perez, Richard Wennet, Jeffrey Winikoff, and Magistrate Maxine Williams.**

Local students, who have an interest in civics or the legal profession, were treated to a lively presentation from the justices and an opportunity to meet and eat lunch with all the judges in attendance.

Justice Quince, the first black woman to lead the state supreme court, told the students that she had not wanted to be a lawyer as a child but said, “I became interested in law during the 1960’s and 1970’s, with Kent State, Vietnam and civil rights.”

Justice Pariente, Chief Justice of the state’s high court from 2004-2006, hosted a game show for the young audience entitled, “So you want to be as smart as a Supreme Court Judge?” Participating students were impressed with the opportunity to interact with the justices and expressed a desire to join the legal profession.

One particularly poignant moment occurred when Sarah Blanc spoke, saying that she was “inspired” by Justice Pariente who, during a past battle with cancer, showed up every single day to work and did not wear a wig, even though she had lost her hair during the grueling cancer treatments. Sarah Blanc is Juvenile Judge Peter Blanc’s daughter.

Chief Judge Kroll, quoted George Washington, saying, “A primary object....should be the education of our youth in the science of government.”

Justice Pariente, when asked if she had always wanted to become a Supreme Court Judge, replied, “No, I wanted to help change things in a peaceful way. When I became a lawyer in 1973 I had no idea I would ever be on the Supreme Court. Justice Quince and I have made history.”

Justice Quince said in response to the same question, “No, my intent was to make sure that the rule of law was followed, and I wanted to be part of that.”



Attendees & Speakers*

Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll*
Judge Ronald Alvarez*
Judge Nelson Bailey
Judge Peter Blanc*
Judge Lucy Chernow Brown*
Judge Barry Cohen
Judge Laura Johnson
Judge James Martz
Judge Nancy Perez
Judge Richard Wennet
Judge Jeffrey Winikoff
Magistrate Maxine Williams

Outstanding Jurists of the Year 2008

Judge Jonathan Gerber: North County Section



On Thursday May 15, 2008, **Judge Jonathon Gerber** was honored to receive the Jurist of the Year Award presented by the Palm Beach County Bar Association, North Section at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse in Palm Beach Gardens.

The crystal gavel was passed on, as tradition requires, by last year's winner **Judge Barry Cohen**.

"It was an honor and a privilege to give Judge Gerber this award," said Adam Doner, President of the North County Section, "It was well deserved."

"I was very humbled to receive the award," said Judge Gerber, "and I

am very appreciative of the support of the North County Section and the Bar Association as a whole. I share the award with my fellow judges, all of whom are very dedicated to what they do."

Judge John Phillips: South County Section

On Saturday May 17, 2008, **Judge John Phillips** was honored to receive the Jurist of the Year Award presented by the South Palm Beach County Bar Association.

The plaque was presented by Michael Mopsick, incoming President, during the South Palm Beach County Installation Gala at the Boca Raton Resort Hotel.

"It's a really nice plaque, very classy and heavy and engraved to me," said Judge Phillips. It says "In Recognition of Outstanding Judicial Service - Distinguished Jurist Award - May 17, 2008"

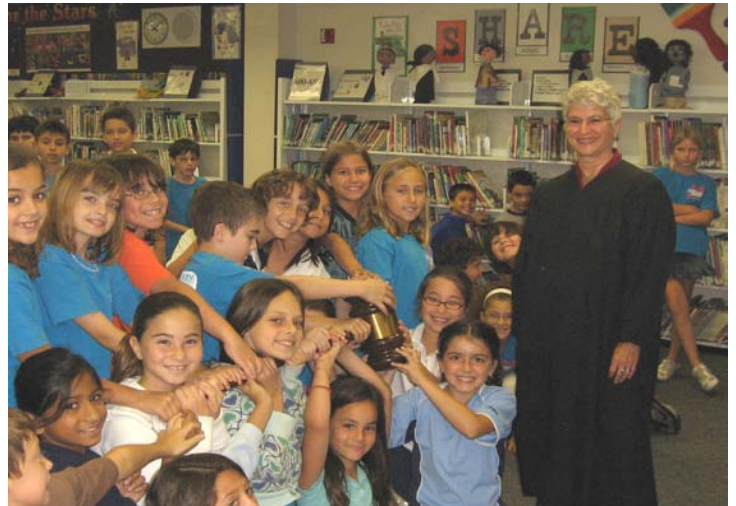
"I'm not used to being honored, so it was really special." said Judge Phillips.



Justice Teaching



Judge Lucy Brown and General Counsel Amy Borman participate in the Justice Teaching Day at Everglades Elementary.



Judge Brown answering questions from third grade students at Everglades Elementary.

WHAT IS JUSTICE TEACHING?

State and national surveys frequently suggest that Americans in general know little about the operation of the American justice system, and they do not understand the basic principles underlying our constitutional institutions and structures.

With this in mind, a major effort has been galvanized to further law-related education in the State of Florida. The name of the effort is **JUSTICE TEACHING**, an initiative of Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis. The ultimate goal of this program is to pair a legal professional with every elementary, middle, and high school in the state of Florida.

For more information please visit the website at:

<http://www.justiceteaching.org>



Judge Robin Rosenberg with students during a Mock Trial as part of the Justice Teaching initiative.



Judge Krista Marx explains her work in Circuit Criminal division to a Justice Teaching middle school class from Rosarian Academy, West Palm Beach.

High School Students Visit the Courthouse

Students from many of the high schools in Palm Beach County came to the Main Courthouse during the first week of April for the traditional annual program known as Law Week which the 15th Circuit co-sponsors in collaboration with the Palm Beach County Bar Association. Court Education Consultant John E. McGovern and Attorney Tanique Lee organized the 2008 event on behalf of their respective agencies.

Each day began with a special introductory session given by **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll** in which she led the students to think through two exercises on the function of the court and the place of the Judicial Branch of government in society today. She encouraged the students to reflect on their experience of the day with their parents and to take a serious interest in the contemporary challenges being faced by the Courts in the legislative process of 2008.

The students were also given a tour of the Central Recording Department by **Rick Hussey**, Manager of Court Reporting Services.

Another highlight of the total experience was an in-depth tour of the Evidence Room which was given by Ms. Colleen Faba and her assistants. Many students expressed that seeing the various forms of evidence and hearing an account of evidence handling from the staff were key learning events of the day.



Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll greets more than 85 students each day during the April 1-3 Law Week celebration.



Rick Hussey, Manager Court Reporting Services, demonstrates the Central Recording System.

Bring Your Children To Work Day

On May 7th, as a part of the Law Week celebration, court staff brought their children to work for a day. They were hosted and entertained by groups from the **Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, the Office of the Clerk and Comptroller, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the State Attorney Office and the Public Defender Office.**

The children were able to visit the Evidence Room of the Clerks' Office and the holding cell in the basement of the main Judicial Center.



PBSO Deputies demonstrate holding cell restraints.

JUROR APPRECIATION MAY 2008

In recognition of the contributions and importance of all jurors, the Clerk & Comptroller Sharon Bock and Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll hosted a recognition ceremony, April 29, 2008 in the Jury Room of the Central Courthouse in West Palm Beach.

The Clerk & Comptroller and Chief Judge host this event annually to mark the beginning of Juror Appreciation Month. Palm Beach County Bar Association President Meenu Sasser, Chief Assistant State Attorney Alan Johnson, Public Defender Carey Haughwout and West Palm Beach Mayor Lois Frankel were among the guest speakers for the ceremony. Prospective jurors called to serve that day were guests of honor.

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. 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."

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

Clerk Bock reminded the jurors that this is a time when ordinary citizens can have an affect on government. Referring to the jurors' participation Alan Johnson said that "this is democracy at work," and Carey Haughwout said that "jurors help the people decide."

Lois Frankel reminded jurors that they will encounter many people during their day in the courthouse and that 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 make sure they get it right" ... "and that one shot is you!"



Clerk & Comptroller Sharon Bock, Public Defender Carey Haughwout, Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll, West Palm Beach Mayor Lois Frankel, Palm Beach County Bar President Meenu Sasser and Assistant State Attorney Alan Johnson.

FUNDING THE STATE COURT SYSTEM

On April 22, 2008, Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll made a presentation to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners entitled, "Funding The State Court System."

The presentation demonstrated that the funding of the court system is only 0.7% of the entire Florida State Budget and that the 15th Circuit is only 0.085% of Palm Beach County's entire budget.

COUNTY FUNDING

The County Budget is administered by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and their budget office, the Office of Financial Management and Budget (OFMB.) The County's fiscal year is October 1-September 30.

In 1998, the voters of Florida agreed that the state should fund a uniform State Court System. Under Revision 7 to Article V of the Constitution, effective in 2004, the county remained responsible for certain specific court related expenses:

- A. Court Security
- B. Court Facilities
- C. Court Technology and Communications

Palm Beach County receives revenues towards funding of some court programs from court fees, filings and fines. The County also funds some programs beyond those mandated such as: Domestic Violence, Drug Court, Pre-Trial, Elder Justice, Court Psychology and some Juvenile programs.

The BOCC, at the request of the Chief Judge, also agreed to fund the Traffic Hearing Officer Program through September 30, 2008. This program provides annual revenues to the County of approximately \$2 million.

The County also has very strict rules and regulations as to the expenditures of county funds, although compared to the State rules, there is more flexibility. The Chief Judge and Trial Court Administrator have some authority to manage the Court's allocation of County funds and can offset deficits in operating funds by using unspent funds from salaries with the approval of OFMB.

The county budget process will be complete when the BOCC votes in September.



Trial Court Administrator Barbara Dawicke, Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll and Court Consultant Debra Oats make a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners.

STATE FUNDING

State Court Funds are allocated by the Trial Court Budget Commission which consists of 14 Trial Judges and 7 Trial Court Administrators. The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit is represented by Judge Nancy Perez.

The Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) establishes budget and funding policies and also makes recommendations to the Supreme Court regarding budget allocations.

The State Court Budget year is July 1 to June 30 and the State Court System is provided with an annual operating budget from the Legislature each fiscal year. The TCBC determines the budget allocation for each Circuit.

Florida is divided into 20 Circuits, which are then classified as small, medium, large and extra large.

The 15th is considered a large circuit. The size of the Circuit determines:

- A. The number and category of staff positions.
- B. The amount of expense dollars allocated.

The State provides very strict rules and regulations as to the use of the funds and purchases must be made from authorized vendors. The total number of staff for each Circuit is determined by a formula that the TCBC use. Salary dollars cannot be used for any other purpose, and expense dollars cannot be used for salaries.

Over the past year, the Courts have suffered significant cuts in funding.

Drug Court Graduation

“Congratulations you have started a brand new life”.

That was the opening remark from **Judge Paul Moyle**, sitting judge at the 2008 Statewide Drug Court Graduation ceremony on May 15, 2008. He went on to say, “Happiness is coming back into your life.”

Fifteen people graduated at the ceremony which was delivered by live video from Brevard County where the **Honorable John M. Harris**, Circuit Judge, 18th Judicial Circuit addressed all the graduates statewide. Also speaking was Florida Supreme Court Justice **Peggy A. Quince**, who congratulated the graduates on their “tremendous accomplishment”.

Judge Moyle acknowledged the difficulties that the graduates had to overcome saying, “You have gone through hell and

back with drugs.” He also wanted to emphasize the dedication of the drug court staff telling graduates that they, “believe in what they do and they believe in you.”

“I didn’t like you people too much when I started but I’m happy to say you will never see me again.”

James

Drug Court Graduate

As Judge Moyle handed the graduates their certificates, he also allowed them the opportunity to sit in the judges’ chair on the bench and address the court. The focus of their remarks was to the drug court staff who help them through the arduous task of reaching their sobriety.

Frederic, who spoke first, said, “I came from living under a bridge and now I’ve got the coping skills. The drug court taught me how to be accountable and how to have discipline.”

“I’d like to thank the drug court team. I didn’t like you people too much when I started,” said James, “but I’m happy to say you will never see me again.”

Eddie said, “I am now clean, I want to stay clean and I thank drug court for that.”

Dorrie Tyng, Drug Court Coordinator introduced the rest of the drug court team:

Judge Nancy Perez, Judge Paul Moyle, Martin Epstein, Carol Bickerstaff, Lisa Collie, Lisa Herron, Precious Gaiter, Wendi Rabucha, Steve Ladd, Nick Casamassimo, Maya Degaspe, Laura Carakatsanis, Maria Stevens, Jim McCourt, Carie Abreu, Christy Vaughan and Sheree Masi.



Judge Paul Moyle congratulates the graduates.



Dorrie Tyng (left foreground) and the rest of the ‘Drug Court Team’ review the graduates files.

County Declares May “Drug Court Month”

The Palm Beach County Drug Court was also honored at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on May 6, 2008 when Vice Chairperson **Jeff Koons** presented **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll** with a signed, framed Proclamation, declaring May 2008 as “Drug Court Month.”

Members of the Drug Court Team and Delinquency Drug Court Planning Committee (seen below) were in attendance.



Dorrie Tyng, Drug Court Manager, Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll, and Alternative Sanctions Coordinator Cristy Altaro.



From left to right, Front row:

Nicole Saunders, Dorrie Tyng, Judge Kathleen Kroll, Marty Epstein, Jeff Koons, Cristy Altaro, Joyce Conway, Steve Ladd.

Back row:

Feirmon Johnson, Michelle Spangenberg, Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Karen Ehrlich, Christy Vaughan, Maria Stevens.

Florida State Senator Dave Aronberg speaks on: “The State of Mediation in Florida.”

On Friday, May 23, 2008 the Mediation Department had the pleasure of welcoming **Florida State Senator Dave Aronberg, Esq.** who spoke on, “The State of Mediation in Florida.” The Harvard-educated Aronberg is the youngest person ever to be elected to the Florida Legislature.

Opening the training session was **Retired Judge Roger Colton**, who is now a circuit, family and county mediator. Always a dynamic speaker, he shared some of the mediation methods he finds useful. When asked if he used the knowledge of the law or people skills more while mediating, he replied “people skills, by far”.

Some of the subjects discussed were the budget cuts and the resulting issues for the courts. Senator Aronberg said it could have been worse. “The problem is that while our population is growing, and our needs are increasing, there is less recurring money being collected because of the tax cuts.” He said the feeling in Tallahassee is, “No taxes, but fees are ok.” The Senator said, “It is unconstitutional to starve the court system of money. Still, an antagonism exists between the court and the legislators.”

A Bill was passed this legislative session to improve record keeping regarding mediation. The Senator said these statistics will prove the importance of mediation.

While speaking to the volunteers, he expressed his respect for the work they do. Seventy percent of all small claim cases in the Fifteenth Circuit are settled, before trial, through mediation.

Special thanks go to **Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll, Judge Peter Evans, Judge Janis Keyser and Chief Deputy Court Administrator Krista Garber** for their participation, and mediator **John Cohen** for arranging Senator Aronberg’s visit.



Florida State Senator Dave Aronberg, Esq. speaks to mediators as John Cohen looks on.



Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll and Retired Judge Roger Colton



Judge Peter Evans listens to mediator Peggy Miller, as mediator John Sochacki's daughter, a law student, talks with Judge Janis Keyser and Chief Judge Kroll.

“Throughout my life, I've seen the difference that volunteering efforts can make in people's lives. I know the personal value of service as a local volunteer.”

Jimmy Carter

“No matter how big and powerful government gets, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers.”

Ronald Reagan

ANNUAL JUDGES/LAWYERS SOFTBALL GAME

On Saturday April 26, the 13th annual Judges v Lawyers softball competition, held at John Prince Park, took a different turn this year when the two teams lined up as mixed judges and attorneys, as opposed to the traditional attorney v. judge competitions of the past.

In a “playground style” selection process, Assistant County Attorney Phil Mugavero chose **Judges Peter Blanc, Mark Eissey, Jonathon Gerber, Jim Martz and Frank Castor** for the “judges” team and Dennis Koehler picked **Judge Richard Oftedal, Federal District Judge Kenneth Marra,** and court computer specialist **Glenn Reed** for the “lawyers” team.

“Everyone who participated agreed that the new, mixed lawyer-judge team format was a competitive success...”

Dennis Koehler

The “Judges”, led by team captain Mark Eissey put up a valiant fight against the “Lawyers”, who eventually prevailed with an 18-12 win over the “Judges.”

Immediately following the game, the judges and lawyers enjoyed a picnic lunch provided by the Palm Beach County Bar Association and coordinated by Executive Director **Patience Burns.**



The “JUDGES” team



The “LAWYERS” team



Judge Gerber (left)

Judge Blanc (right)



04/26/2008

CRIMINAL COURT PROGRAM

AUTOMATION OF THE ORDER OF PROBATION

The Order of Probation form is currently nine pages long and is quite cumbersome. Court-related partners came together in an effort to automate the form.

The goal is to ensure that the Order is prepared during the Court hearing, printed, conformed, and all parties leave the Courtroom with their copy of the Order. This procedure is not only more efficient, but will save in postage.

Honorable Krista Marx, Administrative Judge of the Circuit Criminal Division has agreed to pilot this program and the program is slated to go-live the second week of July.

For more information, please contact Michelle Spangenberg at 561-355-6396.



County Criminal

MASTER CALENDAR FOR COUNTY CRIMINAL DIVISION

Honorable Laura Johnson, Administrative Judge of the County Criminal Division, has spearheaded a project to develop a master calendar for the entire County Criminal Division of the Courts.



The purpose of the calendar is to monitor the types of events being scheduled for accessibility purposes and to avoid excessive clusters of hearings that may conflict. It also gives a logistical timeline for planning in an organized manner. Similar to the Unified Family Court calendar, this calendar will provide hearing information for each division, including the satellite divisions.

The calendar is especially helpful to Law Enforcement and the Clerk's Office so that at a glance they know when to schedule hearings and can provide information to defendants.

For more information, please contact Michelle Spangenberg at 355-6396.

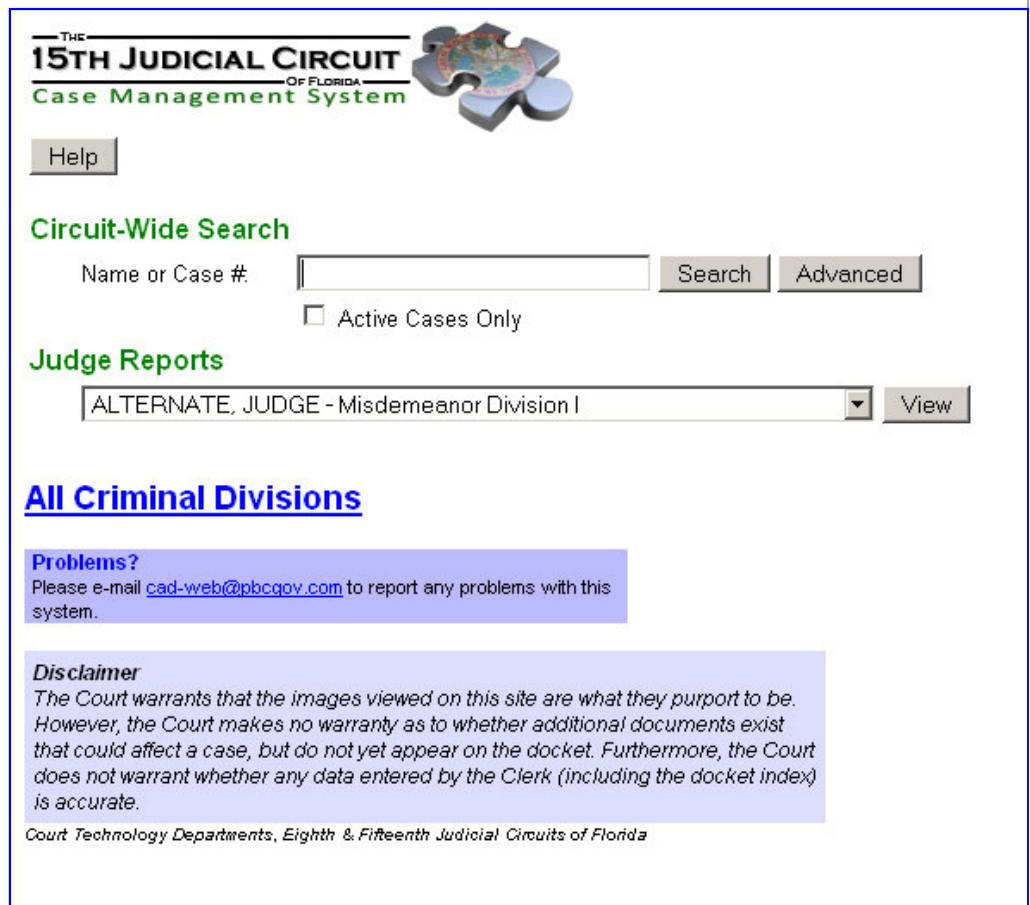
CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Fred Buhl, Court Technology Officer from the Eighth Judicial Circuit, visited the Fifteenth to demonstrate an Integrated Case Management System which he had created for his Circuit with the assistance of Trial Court Administrator, Barbara Dawicke. As a favor to Ms. Dawicke, he re-created this same system for the Fifteenth.

Currently, the system provides data for the Criminal Division of the Courts, including: case load reports, cases in an inactive status, cases scheduled for hearing and all reports have the ability to be exported to an excel spreadsheet. The system also has a search mechanism and allows the user to view docket entries with the click of a button!

The Case Managers in the Criminal Department reported that the system will not only save time but is much easier to navigate than the Banner System.

For a demonstration of this system, please contact Jakobie Alexander at 355-2139 or Michelle Spangenberg at 355-6396.



The screenshot shows the web interface for the 15th Judicial Circuit Case Management System. At the top, it says "THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA Case Management System" next to a logo of puzzle pieces. Below this is a "Help" button. The "Circuit-Wide Search" section has a text input for "Name or Case #", a "Search" button, and an "Advanced" button. There is also a checkbox for "Active Cases Only". The "Judge Reports" section features a dropdown menu currently showing "ALTERNATE, JUDGE - Misdemeanor Division I" and a "View" button. A link for "All Criminal Divisions" is present. A purple box contains a "Problems?" link and an email address "cad-web@pbccgov.com". Another purple box contains a "Disclaimer" stating that the court warrants no accuracy for images or documents not yet on the docket. At the bottom, it says "Court Technology Departments, Eighth & Fifteenth Judicial Circuits of Florida".

GUN CLUB FAST-TRACK FELONY PROGRAM

Court-related partners came together to discuss the implementation of a Fast-track Felony Program for third degree cases. The program was implemented and **Honorable Nancy Perez and Honorable Paul Moyle** have been presiding over a Fast-track Felony Docket for the past several months.

All agreed that this new program is much needed, as it provides for the early disposition of third degree felony cases, reduces the cost of transportation for defendants, reduces the cost of incarceration and reduces the cost of security. At a meeting to discuss the Gun Club Docket, all of the partners agreed that the program is a success and has been a HUGE cost savings to the citizens of Palm Beach County!

For more information, please contact Michelle Spangenberg at 355-6396.

LAW CLERK PROGRAM: SUMMER INTERNS

Eleven summer legal interns joined the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit at the Main Courthouse and North County Courthouse this summer.

The interns assist the General Counsel and the trial court law clerks with research assignments, appeals and probate/family matters as well as special assignments involving the revisions of the Administrative Orders and the Duty Judge Handbook.

The interns learned about the judiciary through a series of brown bag lunches with the judges, tours of the main detention facility, stockade, drug farm, and the Clerk's office, as well as visits with Judge Bailey in Belle Glade, Judge Perez at First Appearance Court, Judge Moyle at Drug Court and Judge Alvarez in Juvenile Court.

The interaction with the judiciary continues to make this a successful summer program.



Joining the Fifteenth Circuit this summer are:

Jessica Shapiro (University of Florida), **Lauren Medoff** (University of Miami), **Alex Karden** (University of Florida), **Katie Tuohy** (Florida State University), **Paul Walsh** (St. Thomas University), **Conor Bennett-Ward** (Georgetown University), **Erin Swick** (University of Florida), **Tim Corwin** (University of Florida), **Shaza Quadri** (University of Florida), **Russ O'Brien** (University of Miami).

Not pictured: **Jason Cohen** (University of Miami)

JUVENILE COURTS

COURT EDUCATION LIAISONS

The School District of Palm Beach County and The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit have embarked on a multidimensional parent/student support program to assist in furthering the cooperative relationship between the courts and the school district.

Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll and the Director of Dropout Prevention/Alternative Education, **Ms. Alexandra Deveroux**, have initiated a supportive information network to assist the county's most challenged and needy students.

In hopes to expand the level of services provided to delinquent and dependent youth, this initiative brought additional school personnel to the courts who will serve as liaisons between the juvenile courts and Palm Beach County schools. Each of the juvenile divisions (4 at the main courthouse, and 1 in Belle Glade) have been assigned a Court Education Liaison Teacher to assist with school information and parent/student needs. The four new liaisons at the main courthouse are: **Dr. Angela Bess** (Judge Blanc), **Maxine Dupont** (Judge Baker), **Ken Johnson** (Judge Alvarez), and **Hope Waltersdorff** (Judge Martin). In Belle Glade, **Anne Haskell** is assisting Judge Bailey. Staff is supervised by Peter Cummings.

DELINQUENCY DRUG COURT

The 15th Judicial Circuit's Delinquency Drug Court (DDC) targets youth on probation who have committed drug-related offenses and/or have a history of substance abuse.

The DDC is committed to the goal of reducing juvenile crime and drug use. Success requires both the youth and family's participation throughout the program.

Delinquency Drug Court is a three-phase program lasting a minimum of eight months. Participants will work with treatment providers to develop treatment plans and will receive individual and group counseling.

Other program components include regular court appearances, frequent and random urinalysis, written assignments, and attending school daily. Progress in the program is reviewed regularly by the Drug Court Team.

For additional information please contact: Cristy Altaro, 355-6586.

On behalf of Court Administration, Emergency Coordinating Officers (ECO), **Rick Hussey** and **Les Davis** made a presentation to court staff and other courthouse employees such as security, on Emergency and Hurricane Preparation for the 2008 Hurricane season.

In addition to their regular duties as Manager of Court Reporting (Rick Hussey) and Court Technology Officer (Les Davis), they serve as the Emergency Coordinating Officers, liaisons between OSCA, the Supreme Court and the 15th Judicial Circuit.

As ECO's, they provided staff with information on hurricane disaster preparedness, which included a power point presentation with videos of past hurricanes and photographs of long lines at stores and gas stations serving as a reminder that planning is vital to survival.

Additionally, Les & Rick provided an overview of the 15th Judicial Circuit's Emergency Go Kits (a/k/a "footballs") which contain multiple communication devices including satellite phones, laptop computers, portable printers, all with AC/DC converters and adapters to use in the responder's vehicle if other power resources have failed.

Finally the 15th Circuit's "Go-Kits" contain CD's with all updated statutes, Administrative Orders and other forms required to help ensure that the court maintains the statutorily required hearings and that the public is provided it's right to be heard in the event of emergency.

For further information on the courts emergency preparations please contact Les Davis, 355-6245 or Rick Hussey at 355-3745.

In the event of an actual emergency, the court provides continuous updates on the Emergency Hotline at (561) 355-6744.



Emergency Coordination Officers, for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit: Rick Hussey and Les Davis



Court staff and courthouse employees watch the power point presentation.



Rick Hussey demonstrates the possible flood areas in the event of a catastrophic storm.



LEFT:

Court staff listen to a presentation by Chief Judge Kathleen Kroll (not pictured) on the state and county budget process.

The presentation was to inform both state and county court staff of the upcoming budget process (effective July 1, 2008).

(see P.9)

For Human Resources questions, contact Krista Garber, Chief Deputy Court Administrator, at (561) 355-2154 or Letitia McDonald, Personnel Management Analyst at (561) 355-1847

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

The following Administrative Orders are new or were recently updated:

Administrative Order 2.014- 5/08 - Procedure for Special Interest / High Profile Procedures

Administrative Order 2.046 - 4/08 - Assignment of Administrative Judges

Administrative Order 2.073 -6/08- Establishment of Review Panel For Selection of Court Appointed Experts

Administrative Order 7.006 -6/08- Assignment of Delinquency and Dependency Cases

Administrative Order 7.020-5/08 - Delinquency Drug Court

Administrative Order 10.006-6/08 - Temporary Reassignment of Civil Traffic Infractions

Administrative Order 12.063-6/08 - Motion, Notice and Judgments of Dismissal; Notices of Lack of Prosecution and Notices of Hearings on Motions to Dismiss for Lack of Prosecution

For a complete list of Administrative Orders please go to:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

3rd-6th Conference of Circuit Court Judges

7th Memorial Service: Judge Winikoff
Courtroom 11A

19th Unified Family Practice Committee Meeting
Law Library, Main Courthouse, noon

September

1st Holiday (Labor Day)

30th Courts Closed (Rosh Hashanah)

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