

Circuit Courier

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



Investiture of Circuit Court Judge Lisa S. Small

**Investitures of County Court Judges Marni A. Bryson
and Gregory M. Keyser**

2011 Bench/Bar Conference

Judge John L. Phillips and Justice Teaching

New Family Resource Center in South County

And more...



*Cover photo:
Main
Judicial
Center, WPB*

Photo by:
Deputy Bill
LaFlamme

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COURT TECHNOLOGY TEAM WINS PRODUCTIVITY AWARD

A four-member team from the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit was named, on March 15, 2011, as one of the recipients of a 2011 Davis Productivity Award, for creating an automated system to process inactive case dispositions.

The team’s submission described an automated process to identify cases that had been inactive for an extended period, and then automate the preparation, printing and mailing of notices to parties in the case. Each repetition of the process saves hundreds of staff hours and significant postage costs. The procedure can be replicated in many other court divisions.

The 2011 awards competition attracted 570 nominations for innovations and productivity improvements worth \$473 million in cost savings, cost avoidances and increased revenue for state government. Since 1989, the Davis Productivity Award program has publicly recognized state employees and work units whose work significantly and measurably increases productivity and promotes innovation. The program is chaired by Florida's Lt. Governor and co-sponsored by Florida TaxWatch, The Florida Council of 100, and the State of Florida.

The Court Technology Innovation Team includes **Judge Peter Evans**, Court Technology Officer **Noel Chessman**, Court Technology staff members **Jakobie Alexander** and **Shilpa Vuppalanchi**.



L-r: Jakobie Alexander, Shilpa Vuppalanchi, Judge Evans, Noel Chessman

The team has been invited to an awards ceremony in Fort Lauderdale, FL, on June 23, 2011, where its achievement will be recognized. The next issue of the *Circuit Courier* will feature more detail on the procedure the team created.

INVESTITURE OF JUDGE LISA S. SMALL

Judge Lisa S. Small was elected to the Circuit Court effective January 4, 2011.

Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Small was a private attorney with the firm, Small & Small, P.A. and concentrated her practice in the areas of commercial litigation, construction litigation, community association litigation and probate litigation.

Judge Small received her Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 1988 and her law degree from University of Florida in December 1991.

Judge Small's first assignment is in Family Division "FD" on the sixth floor of the Main Judicial Center.

Her judicial assistant is **Brenda Gleason**. The office can be reached at 355-7889.

A large group of family, colleagues, and friends gathered in courtroom 11A of the Palm Beach County Main Judicial Center on February 18, 2011, for the investiture of **Judge Lisa S. Small** as Circuit Judge for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

The ceremony opened with remarks by **Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc**, followed by the invocation by **Rabbi Howard Shapiro**, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Israel. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Aiden Small Conde**, **Mikayla Kantor**, **Maya Kantor**, **Jodi Small Kantor**, and **J.D. Small**, Esquire. The presentation of the Judicial Commission was made by **Sharon R. Bock**, Clerk and Comptroller of Palm Beach County (PBC). **Judge Robin Rosenberg** presented a desk plate on behalf of the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges. The Bible was presented by **Scott G. Hawkins**, Esq., President-elect, The Florida Bar.

The **Honorable Barbara J. Pariente**, Justice, Florida Supreme Court, administered the Oath of Office, as **Ann G. Small** and **Michael B. Small** held the Bible. The honor of the enrobing went to Judge Small's husband **Anatole Conde** and their son Aiden.

The gavel was presented by **Michael J. Napoleone**, Esquire, President of the PBC Bar Association, and **John M. Howe**, Esquire, President-elect. Gifts were given by **Samantha Schosberg Feuer**, Esquire, President, Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Palm Beach Chapter, **Theodore L. DiSalvo**, Esquire, Director of the South PBC Bar Association and **Spencer Kuvin**, Esquire, President, PBC Justice Association. Following remarks by **Mariano Garcia**, Esquire, **Kristy Pressly**, Esquire, **Ted Leopold**, Esquire, **Michelle Suskauer**, Esquire, and **Michael B. Small**, Esquire. **Judge Small** thanked all for their help and committed to "do what is right and always treat people with respect."

The ceremony concluded with the benediction from **Howard Weiss**, Esquire.



Justice Pariente administers the Oath of Office to Judge Small.



l-r: Justice Pariente, Chief Judge Blanc and Aiden Small Conde lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVESTITURE OF JUDGE MARNI A. BRYSON

Judge Marni A. Bryson was elected to the County Court on November 2, 2010, to a six-year term that ends on January 3, 2017.

Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Bryson practiced civil litigation with Cole, Scott, and Kissane, P.A. Before that, she served as an Assistant Public Defender with the Office of the Public Defender, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, and before that with the Florida Office of the Attorney General.

Judge Bryson received her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Florida and her law degree from Nova Southeastern University.

Judge Bryson's first assignment is in Criminal Division "E" on the 9th floor of the Main Judicial Center.

Her judicial assistant is **Luciana Viera**. The office can be reached at 355-7863.

Family, colleagues, and friends gathered in courtroom 11A of the Palm Beach County Courthouse on February 11, 2011, for the investiture of **Judge Marni A. Bryson**.

Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc welcomed the group, and was followed by the invocation from **Howard I. Weiss**, Esquire. Judge Bryson's brother, **Rodney W. Bryson, II**, Esquire, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The presentation of the Judicial Commission was made by **Sharon R. Bock**, Clerk and Comptroller of Palm Beach County. **Judge Ted Booras** presented a desk plate on behalf of the Florida Conference of County Court Judges.

The Bible and gavel were presented by **Michael J. Napoleone**, Esquire, President, Palm Beach County Bar Association.

The **Honorable Peter D. Blanc**, Chief Judge, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, administered the Oath of Office. The honor of the enrobing went to Judge Bryson's parents, **Rodney W. Bryson**, Esquire and **Marilyn M. Bryson**.

Gifts were presented by **Theodore L. DiSalvo**, Esquire, President, South Palm Beach County Bar Association and **Heidi Reiff**, Esquire, President-elect, Palm Beach County Justice Association.

Remarks on behalf of Judge Bryson were made by her father, Rodney W. Bryson, Esquire. **Judge Bryson** said that she aspired to emulate the example set by the judges of the County.

Senator Donnell Childers' benediction concluded the ceremony.



Chief Judge Peter Blanc administers the Oath of Office to Judge Bryson.



Rodney Bryson and Marilyn Bryson assist Judge Bryson with her robe.

INVESTITURE OF JUDGE GREGORY M. KEYSER

Judge Gregory M. Keyser was appointed to the County Court by Governor Charlie Crist on December 23, 2010.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Keyser was a civil litigator for twenty years, working for the last ten years with the West Palm Beach law firm, Billing, Cochran, Lyles, Mauro & Ramsey, P.A.

Judge Keyser received his bachelor's degree in Accounting and Political Science from Duke University in 1977 and his law degree from University of Florida Levin College of Law in 1980.

Judge Keyser's first assignment is in County Civil Division "RL" on the sixth floor of the Main Judicial Center.

His judicial assistant is **Kristin Colbath**. The office can be reached at 355-2768.

Judges, family, colleagues, and friends gathered in courtroom 11A of the Palm Beach County (PBC) Courthouse on March 11, 2011, for the investiture of **Judge Gregory M. Keyser**.

The ceremony opened with remarks by **Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc**, followed by the invocation by **Howard I Weiss, Esquire**. Judge Keyser's children, **Mallory** and **Spencer**, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The presentation of the Judicial Commission was made by **Sharon R. Bock**, Clerk and Comptroller of Palm Beach County. **Judge Peter M. Evans** presented a desk plate on behalf of the Florida Conference of County Court Judges. The Bible was presented by **David Prather**, Esquire, Board of Governors of The Florida Bar.

The **Honorable Janis Brustares Keyser**, assisted by **Betty Jane Keyser** and **Beverly Keyser**, administered the Oath of Office. The honor of the enrobing went to the Keyser's children, Mallory and Spencer.

The gavel was presented by **Michael J. Napoleone**, Esquire, President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, and gifts were given by **Theodore L. DiSalvo**, Esquire, President of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association, and **Spencer T. Kuvin**, Esquire, President of the Palm Beach County Justice Association.

Following remarks from **Peter S. Sachs**, Esquire; **Peter M. Feaman**, Esquire; **Clark W. Smith**, Esquire and **Bruce M. Ramsey**, Esquire, Judge Keyser pledged to "live up to the trust and confidence placed in him."

Closing the ceremony was the benediction from **Patricia E. Lowry**, Esquire.



l-r: Judge Janis Keyser, Judge Gregory Keyser, Beverly Keyser, Betty Ann Keyser.



Mallory and Spencer Keyser (far left) lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

2011 BENCH/BAR CONFERENCE MARCH 4, 2011

On March 4, 2011, the Palm Beach County Convention center was the scene for a very informative and well-attended Bench/Bar conference. Sponsored by the Palm Beach County (PBC) Bar Association, this annual event provides a valuable opportunity for the judiciary, attorneys, judicial assistants, and paralegals to meet and discuss topics related to their respective legal practice areas.

The day's format included both plenary sessions and smaller break-out groups on specific subject matter. Attendees were given an excellent range of seminars in which to enroll. The morning session was targeted toward the interests of case managers, paralegals, secretaries, and other support staff.

Among the various morning sessions was General Counsel **Amy Borman**'s presentation on Basic Civil practice. Modeled on a "speed dating" format, Judicial Assistants and Court staff moved from one table of attendees to the next after an allocated amount of time, enabling them to address the specific concerns raised at each table.

Magistrate Diane Kirigin spoke at the family session on "Practice Before General Magistrates." The late morning agenda featured a judicial panel for solo, small firm & new practitioners on "The Basics of Practicing before the Fifteenth Circuit." Responding to the group's questions were **Judge Jonathan Gerber**, Fourth District Court of Appeal, Fifteenth Circuit Court **Judges Meenu Sasser, Jack Cox, Robin Rosenberg**, County Court **Judge Caroline Shepherd**, and several judicial assistants.



l-r: Michelle Spangenberg, Mary Quinlan, and Cristy Altaro at podium during Bench/Bar 2011.



l-r: Court Technology staff Luis Guzman, Jude Charles, Court Technology Officer Noel Chessman, Lynn Anzalone, Sarwar Siddiqui and Shilpa Vuppalachchi.



Members of the afternoon session's judicial panel were (l-r): Judge Bonavita, Judge Castor, Judge Hanser, Judge Colbath, Judge J. Marx and Judge Oftedal.

BENCH/BAR CONFERENCE: CONT.

During the lunch break, attendees were welcomed by PBC Bar President **Michael Napoleone**. Judge **Richard Oftedal** spoke to honor **Judge Jack Cook**, in recognition of his upcoming retirement on April 29, 2011. The crowd responded with a standing ovation following comments on Judge Cook's professionalism, integrity and expertise during his thirty years on the Circuit Bench.

Chief Judge Peter Blanc then presented the "State of the Court" address, recapping the past year's judicial appointments and providing detail on the budgetary crisis faced by the courts system. Judge Blanc cited statistics showing that Florida ranks lowest of all the states in both the ratio of State Government employees to population and the State employee payroll expenditure per resident.

The afternoon sessions were intended for judges, magistrates and attorneys, and consisted of small seminars in a variety of substantive legal areas. The break-out session in Family Law was led by **Magistrate Diane Kirigin**. She also led a group on Proposed Legislation to Remove Rulemaking Authority from Supreme Court.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Director **Bill Moreno** outlined the services and procedures within the Court's mediation office. Other group discussions included Civil Law, Personal Injury and Commercial Litigation, Criminal Law, and Appellate Practice.



(l-r): Michael Napoleone, PBC Bar President; Judge Jack Cook, and Judge Richard Oftedal.



Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc delivers the "State of the Court" address for 2011.



Participating in the Family Law session were (l-r): Magistrate Diane Kirigin, Bill Moreno and Elisha Roy.



(l-r): General Counsel Amy Borman, Lead Court Reporter Susan Wiggins and Administrative Assistant Michelle Diaz.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Excerpted from *The Florida Bar News* article, January 15, 2011, "Justice Teaching is for Every Student."

The article introduces Delray Beach Attorney Sheri Hazeltine, whose child attends Royal Palm School. She partnered with **Judge John Phillips** to bring the Justice Teaching program to the school, which has the largest population of disabled students in Palm Beach County. The article continues with comments from Judge Phillips:

"To be honest, I had a lot of doubts about my ability to teach anything meaningful about the law the first time I visited the school in May 2009," Judge Phillips said. "However, after meeting Ms. Brodsky and Ms. Boyd, all the students, and all of their assistants, I launched into my presentation armed with my robe and a huge outsized gavel. The kids were so open to everything I had to say, had lots of questions, and seemed to respond eagerly."

Since that initial visit, Judge Phillips and Hazeltine have returned to the Royal Palm School multiple times and conducted Justice Teaching presentations. During the visits, Phillips and Hazeltine use a modified form of the ESE exercise available on the Justice Teaching website.

In addition, they ensure that each session is characterized by something special (a "hook", as described by Judge Phillips) to capture the students' attention—such as a giant gavel, a Santa hat, or a floppy magician's cap modeled

after the Johnny Carson character Carnac the Magnificent. (see photo below.)



"Those feelings of gratitude are not one-directional." Judge Phillips freely shares that the students and teachers of the Royal Palm School are the heart and soul of this Justice Teaching experience.

"It has been a lot of fun. I've come to really love these kids, and I am so inspired by their teachers, assistants, and the parents," he said. "Truly, I have received so much more from these visits than I have given."

"Over the years, I appeared at any school that would have me for Law Week and other opportunities to teach students about the court system. I would not trade my Justice Teaching experience at the Royal Palm School for anything else I've ever done in our community. I hope to be invited back many times in the future."

Judge Phillips and Hazeltine said they hope that sharing their experiences at the Royal Palm School will motivate other attorneys and judges to reach out to ESE schools through Justice Teaching. Both have offered to assist other Justice Teaching volunteers who may be interested in establishing a relationship with similar schools around Florida.

To learn more about becoming involved in Justice Teaching, visit www.justiceteaching.org.



Judge John Phillips (not pictured) drove his racing car to a recent visit at Royal Palm School, much to the delight of the students.

PALM BEACH COUNTY BAR DONATION TO CIRCUIT

In June, 2010, when **Chief Judge Peter Blanc** appointed the Palm Beach County Bar Association (PBCBA) as the Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program Manager for Fifteenth Circuit, the Bar chose to allocate a portion of the program revenues to benefit all court users, including the legal community.

PBCBA's Board of Directors voted to donate several flat screen monitors to the Court. These monitors will be available at no charge to counsel for purposes of presenting documents, videos, and other evidence at hearings and trials.

This month, the Bar donated the first 55" LCD monitor, for Courtroom 9D, currently **Judge Meenu Sasser's** courtroom. The monitor has already been put

to good use during a jury trial, with jurors and lawyers pleased with the video images and sound levels.

This technology will enable more widespread use of demonstratives at trials and hearings. The Bar remains committed to improving access to technology for all lawyers who practice in the Fifteenth Circuit and this project will not only benefit the members, but will directly benefit the clients, who will no longer have to pay to rent this equipment.

The Circuit thanks **Casey Jones**, chair of the Bar's judicial technology subcommittee, and **Noel Chessman**, Court Technology Officer, who were instrumental in implementing the program.

“LUNCH WITH THE JUDGES” SERIES

The Young Lawyers Section hosted "Lunch with the Judges," on March 24, 2011, with **Judges Jack Cook, Diana Lewis and Glenn Kelley** speaking.

These monthly lunches feature 3-5 judges speaking on pet peeves, professionalism, evidentiary issues, and other tips most beneficial to young lawyers. After each judge speaks, there is an open forum where the attorneys can ask questions of the judges.



(At head of table l-r): "Lunch With The Judges" featured Judges Jack Cook, Diana Lewis and Glenn Kelley .

SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

On March 18, 2011, **Chief Justice Charles Canady** appointed **Guillermo (Bill) Moreno**, Alternative Dispute Resolution Director, to serve on the Supreme Court's Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy. Bill's term will extend through June 30, 2013. The Committee is charged with recommending amendments to court rules, monitoring education requirements, developing model practices, and reviewing certification issues, all to advance the role of mediation and other alternatives as supplements to the judicial process.

SOUTH COUNTY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER OPEN

On Friday, January 21, 2011 Court Administration hosted an Open House, unveiling the brand new Juvenile and Family Resource Room at the South County Courthouse. The event kicked off with welcoming remarks by **Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc**, followed by the presentation of the room by **Judge Moses Baker**.

The event drew a large crowd, including Judges, Magistrates, Trial Court Administrator **Barbara Dawicke**, General Counsel **Amy Borman**, and other Court personnel. Also in attendance were representatives from the Office of the State Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Guardian Ad Litem, Department of Children and Families/Children's Legal Services, Palm Beach County School District, and other community partners.

This room was created to provide opportunities for youth and families in the County to obtain valuable information about available programs and services. There are free resource materials, including brochures and flyers, information on community events, books as well as streamlined videos on delinquency and dependency programs available for viewing. Through a partnership with the Heart Gallery, pictures of children and adolescents available for adoption adorn the room. The Resource Room is staffed by a volunteer on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday, and is open during regular Courthouse hours of operation.

Thank you to **Cristy Altaro**, **Kathy Sanchez**, **Maxine DuPont**, Court Education Liaison, and the Court Technology staff for their efforts in hosting this event.

For more information on the resources available for families and juveniles in South County, please contact Cristy Altaro at 561 355-6586.



Attending the center's opening were (l-r): Michael Cohen, Esq., Judge Baker, Debra Coltun and Lynn Powell, State Attorney's Office.



(l-r) Senior Court Program Specialist Kathy Sanchez and Alternative Sanctions Coordinator Cristy Altaro open the new Family Resource Center in the South County Courthouse.



A visitor to the Family Resource Center watches a video on a program available to at-risk youth.

TRAFFIC HEARING OFFICERS

Thanks to a grant awarded by the Florida Court Education Council's Florida Court Personnel Committee and funded by the Court Education Trust Fund, the first ever statewide Traffic Hearing Officer Conference was held on March 14-15, 2011, in Orlando, Florida.

This inaugural conference was conceptualized and developed by the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's Administrative Traffic Hearing Officer, **Sara Blumberg**. The intent was to gather the most experienced traffic hearing officers from each judicial circuit in Florida to share their traffic court experiences and to learn from one another. Through a series of fun, educational exercises covering a variety of topics, the group quickly connected with one another and delved right into the task at hand. Moderated by Ms. Blumberg, this two day conference covered a variety of topics both substantive and procedural in nature. **Michele Lenoff** attended the conference on behalf of the Fifteenth Circuit's traffic hearing officers.

"The first traffic hearing officer conference provided a rare opportunity for interaction among traffic hearing officers from all parts of the State of Florida. We were encouraged to present different perspectives, share

resources and offer analysis and critique."

The conference provided a great opportunity to open a dialogue to share insightful and innovative ways to enhance the traffic hearing officer program to better serve the citizens of the state while at the same time alleviating the burden on the court system.

Ms. Blumberg presented materials in an innovative and creative manner which stimulated learning, encouraged dialogue between the traffic hearing officers of the Florida circuits and opened the doors for future development and excellence of the program. "I enjoyed the myriad of training techniques including large group interactions, small group interactions, and video presentations in which we were able to learn from each other and stimulate collaborative action to sustain and enhance the well-being of current and future development of the traffic hearing program."

As a result of attending the conference, several long range plans were made which would enable the traffic hearing officers around the state to join together in future educational endeavors and the sharing of information and experiences.



Traffic Hearing Officers from throughout Florida attend the first statewide Traffic Hearing Officer Conference. Sara Blumberg (center front).

TRIAL COURT LAW CLERKS

Mary Essue, Esquire

Mary joined the circuit in February 2011 as the staff attorney assigned to the South County Courthouse. Mary transferred from the Seventh Circuit where she worked as a staff attorney for 6 years – two of which were as the senior staff attorney overseeing the trial court law clerks in the Volusia, St. Johns, Flagler, and Putnam County courthouses. After graduating from the University of Miami with a degree in English, Mary attended Stetson University College of Law where she was awarded a teaching fellowship in the Research and Writing Department.



Stacey Weinger

Through the University of Miami Legal Corps Fellowship Program, attorney Stacey Weinger was assigned to the 15th Circuit from January, 2011-April 2011. Stacey is a 2010 graduate from the University of Miami School of Law and a 2007 graduate from the University of Central Florida. While at the University of Miami, Stacey was the HOPE (Helping Others Through Pro Bono Efforts) Award recipient, a member of the Health and Elder Law Clinic and a Student Ambassador.



PROCESS SERVERS SWORN IN

On January 20, 2011, more than 90 process servers gathered in Courtroom 2D to be sworn in to serve the citizens of Palm Beach County. Consisting of both new and renewing candidates, all had recently completed the training, examination, and requirements for becoming certified by the Circuit.

In addressing the group, **Chief Judge Peter Blanc** advised the process servers that the ceremony makes them part of the court system. As such, they must strive to maintain a good reputation. At the same time, they may encounter pressure to perform their duties improperly. The Chief Judge encouraged them to report any such pressure to Court Administration so that they may be assisted. In closing, Judge Blanc extended his best wishes for the process servers' safety as they carry out their duties.

After administering the oath, Judge Blanc congratulated the Process Servers on their achievement. **Amy Borman**, General Counsel, and **Crystal Dixon**, Legal Secretary, then distributed the photo badges that identify them as being certified by the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

Process server applications are accepted each October, with training and examinations scheduled in December. Details on the application process are posted on the website prior to the acceptance period.



New and renewing candidates take the oath to be sworn in as certified process servers for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit for 2011. Administering the oath was Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc (not pictured).

MEET THE DEPARTMENTS

UNIFIED FAMILY COURT (UFC)

Case Managers review self-service motions, affidavits, correspondence and pleadings to determine status and directs a case for appropriate action by the Judge or Magistrate, and monitors a case throughout the court system. This includes the passing of a case through the many adjunct facilities related to families such as custody evaluations, domestic violence, parenting coordinator and others.

The Case Manager is responsible for monitoring strict compliance to Supreme Court mandated time standards for processing of family division cases.



Connie Thomas
Case Manager
(October 2000);
Division FA, Judge
Diana Lewis

South County



Eddy Dionne
Case Manager
(March 1997);
Division FZ, Judge
James Martz



Eric Levande
Case Manager
(November 2004);
Division FY, Judge
Charles Burton

Main Judicial Center

Erika Ireland

Case Manager (August 2003);
Division FD, Judge Lisa Small

Linda Peters

Case Manager (June 2005);
Division FC, Judge Catherine Brunson

North County



Laura Lavoie
Case Manager
(January 2008)
Division FH, Judge John
Phillips
Division FJ, Judge Amy
Smith



RuthAnn Kravetz
Case Manager
(August 1992);
Division FI and II, Judge
Sandra McSorley

MEET THE DEPARTMENTS

JUVENILE



Cristy Altaro: Juvenile Alternate Sanctions Coordinator (August 2007)

Oversees the Alternative Sanctions Program, Delinquency Drug Court, and the Reminder Notification Program, as well as numerous juvenile delinquency and dependency projects and initiatives including *Read To Succeed* and the Juvenile and Family Resource Centers.



William (Will) Hutchings: Juvenile Court Case Manager (April 2010)

Responsible for providing Alternative Sanctions to the Court, reducing the number of juveniles held in secure detention through daily screening of the detention docket, attending court hearings and case management activities.



Jacqueline (Jacqui) Marshburn: Juvenile Case Manager (September 2001)

Responsible for various delinquency court projects, as well as case management activities for Delinquency Drug Court and Crossover cases. Responsible for resource materials available for youth and families at the courthouse.



Kathy Sanchez: Senior Court Program Specialist/ Juvenile Case Manager (May 1988)

Organizes court dockets and shares information with Judge, DCF, GAL, Legal Aid and other parties in court. Identifies potential cross-over cases and valuable information regarding pending or closed cases. Coordinates calendar dates and hearings for outstanding matters or warrants and follows up with proper parties and PBSO.



Gabriel Munoz: Juvenile Case Manager (September 2007)

Implements procedures to effectively manage the progression of Marchman Act and Independent Living Court cases. Responsible for tracking cases to ensure reports are timely filed, providing detailed information for the judiciary, data collection, and acting as a liaison with community stakeholders.



Lisset Pino: Juvenile Case Manager (October 2006)

Responsible for thorough screening of dependency dockets, coordination of mediation and the preparation of all UFC Orders. Attends detention and shelter hearings and assists in the identification of crossover cases. Provides judicial support at UFC hearings which include Domestic Violence, Mental Health and other domestic relations cases.



Ayat (Tara) Kranz: Judicial Review Case Manager (March 2010)

Reviews reports, documents, motions and pleadings prior to Judicial Review hearings held for dependent children and prepares and drafts an Order and Recommendation form for General Magistrate or Senior Judges reviewing the cases.

MEET THE DEPARTMENTS

CRIMINAL COURT



Michelle Spangenberg: Criminal Court Operations Manager (February 1995)
Responsible for monitoring the performance of various court programs to ensure compliance with court policy and procedures, conducts research and makes recommendations for the improvement of criminal court operations.



David Simmons: Court Analyst (December 2009)
Responsible for compiling, analyzing and presenting data related to case types, divisional caseloads and timeliness of case processing. Analyzes which in-custody defendants are awaiting trial and compiles statistics on the jail population for the Chief Judge .

Stewart Saalfield: Criminal Case Manager (December 2009)

Responsible for County Criminal (misdemeanor) cases, reviewing monthly caseload reports, and identifying cases that require judicial attention.

Jan Vigoda: Criminal Case Manager (April 1986)

Tracks and monitors all felony and cases, reviews felony post-conviction motions and assists the Criminal Court Operations Manager with various court projects.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PROBATE COURTS



Mary Quinlan: Mental Health Court Manager (April 2006)

Oversees the development of policies and procedures related to mental health, substance abuse, and court system issues across the criminal, civil, family, and juvenile court divisions. Responsible for the Independent Living, Marchman Act, judicial review, and probate and guardianship case managers.



Marcela Millett: Mental Health Case Manager (September 2008)

Implements procedures to more effectively manage the progression of cases involving adults/ youth who may be incompetent to proceed through the criminal justice system. Responsibilities include tracking cases , providing detailed information for the judiciary, data collection, and acting as a liaison with court and community stakeholders.



Tehera Smith: Probate and Guardianship Case Manager (December 2006)

Implements procedures to more effectively manage the progression of cases in the probate and guardianship divisions. Responsibilities include remaining current with all filings, procedures, statutes and rules, coordinating the Uniform Motion Calendar, and providing detailed information to the Judiciary on the status of cases in the division.



Jill Mitchell: Probate Case Manager (October 1999)

Reviews all files, both from attorney's and pro se parties, make sure all Florida Statutes and Rules are being followed prior to the Judge signing any orders. UMC/Ex parte calendar.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Robin Azdeniz

As part of pursuing her Masters degree in Social Work at FAU, Robin assists with Mental Health Court. A graduate of Boston University Robin is fluent in Spanish and Turkish. She devotes 16 hours per week to researching mental health topics for training, monitoring clients in Family Drug Court and completing other special projects for the Court.



Felice Berndt

Felice Berendt will volunteer to staff the new Family Resource Center in South County every Friday . As a recently retired school teacher, she enjoys the opportunity to continue involvement with youth in the community. The Circuit is grateful for her willingness to help this initiative.



Tours of the Main Courthouse for school and civic groups have been suspended through June 30, 2011, unless previously reserved.

For information on volunteer opportunities, see www.15thcircuit.com under “court programs and services” or contact Krista Garber at 561-355-2431.

Margaret (Peggy) Sims

Peggy Sims assists families visiting the new Family Resource Center in South County. She particularly likes to help those in juvenile court find information on community resources, a task that comes naturally after her experience in sales and administration. A graduate of Boston College, Ms. Sims now resides in Boca Raton.



The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers. ~Terri Guillemets

Brandon Washington

When Magistrate Maxine Williams was unable to hire an assistant due to the recently-announced hiring freeze, Brandon volunteered to help in South County. He will help the Magistrate keep up with correspondence and preparation of orders. Brandon graduated from Joseph Wheeler High School and will be furthering his studies this fall, with some first-hand observations of the duties of a Magistrate.



Volunteers are currently needed for:

- Main Courthouse information desk - Monday or Wednesday afternoons
- South County Guardianship Visitors Program - office staff only, to prepare files for those visiting the wards - hours variable
- Office of Court Administration—various time slots for secretarial support

HR HUDDLE

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Employees:

Linda Fraser— Mediator (Family); Jan. 13, 2011
Deron Harris— OPS Foreclosure Assistant; Jan. 13, 2011
Autumn Peek—OPS Foreclosure Assistant; Jan. 13, 2011
Mary Essue—Trial Court Law Clerk; Feb. 7, 2011
Luiz Guzman—Systems Administrator I; Feb. 7, 2011
Monika Nanda-Arora—Computer Specialist II; Feb. 7, 2011
Maria Vasil—OPS Judicial Assistant; Feb.11, 2011
Lynn Anzalone—Computer Specialist II; Feb. 14, 2011
Victor Burris—Desktop Administrator; March 21, 2011
The State imposed a partial hiring freeze effective March 1, 2011. Until further notice, only judicial assistant and due process positions may be filled.

Congratulations to:

Angela Hildenbrand - interim Civil Court Operations Manager (OPS); Feb. 14, 2011
Matt Dreiss - Lead Worker overseeing satellite courthouses, Computer Specialist II; Feb. 26, 2011
Mary Ellen Feinberg - Mediation Services Coordinator; Feb. 28, 2011
David Henderson - OPS Foreclosure Case Manager; March 14, 2011

Reassignments:

Diana Grant - Judicial Assistant to Judge Nancy Perez
Kristin Colbath - Judicial Assistant to Judge Gregory M. Keyser

CONDOLENCES TO JUDGE COOK

The Circuit was shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Denise (Dee) Cook, Judge Jack Cook's wife of 37 years.

On January 23, 2011, Mrs. Cook was struck by a vehicle while walking near her home. At the time of her death, Mrs. Cook was a teacher at the DePorres P.L.A.C.E., an adult literacy center in Riviera Beach. She was remembered by family and countless friends for her kindness, generosity and good spirit.

The Circuit extends deepest sympathies to the family.

April

12 Volunteer Appreciation Day —Main Courthouse
14 Volunteer Appreciation Day —South County
29 Judge Jack Cook retirement

May

2 Juror Appreciation Day
6 Law Day Luncheon
13 Statewide Drug Court Graduation

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Administrative Orders amended January 1—March 31, 2011 are:

11.101— 1/11 Assignment of Judges
11.102—1/11 Administrative Judges & Executive Committee
11.104—1/11 Seniority Listing of Judges
11.106—1/11 Alternate Assignments
11.109—1/11 Duty Judge Roster
5.703 — 3/11 Juvenile Judicial Review Orders
11.110—3/11 Appointment of Circuit Judges as Acting County Judges and County Judges as Acting Circuit Judges
11.705—3/11 Interns and Volunteers

For updates to the latest Administrative Orders (AO's) for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, please see our website at:
<http://15thcircuit.co.palm-beach.fl.us/web/guest/ao>.

COURT HOLIDAYS

April

22 Good Friday

May

31 Memorial Day

