

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Palm Beach County Courthouse at night. The large central archway is brightly lit from within, creating a warm glow. The words "PALM BEACH COUNTY COURTHOUSE" are visible in stone lettering above the arch. The building's facade is a mix of light and dark stone blocks. In the foreground, there are some trees and a street lamp. The overall atmosphere is professional and official.

Circuit Courier

October-December 2011

Vol. 2011-4

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

Judge Karen L. Martin Retires

Investiture of Judge Rosemarie Scher

Robert Panse Appointed to County Court

Columbus Day Training

National Adoption Day

And more...

2011 JUDICIAL HIGHLIGHTS



On the Cover: Courthouse, WPB
Photo by Deputy Bill LaFlamme

In this issue...

2011 Judicial Highlights	2
Judge Martin Retires	3
Investiture of Judge Scher	4
Robert Panse Appointed	5
Judicial Reassignments	5
Legislative Delegation	6
Judicial Lunch Series	6
Veterans' Court	7
In the Community	8-9
National Adoption Day	10
Mediation Week	11
Court Technology Conference	11
Child Safety Training	12
Foreclosure Training	12
Traffic Hearing Officer Training	12
Court Interpreters	13
UFC Training	13
Trial Court Law Clerks	14
Columbus Day Training	15-16
Meet the Departments	17
Volunteer Spotlight	18
HR/Upcoming Events/Holidays/AO's	19

- February 11—Investiture of Judge Marni Bryson
- February 18—Investiture of Judge Lisa Small
- February 11—Investiture of Judge Gregory Keyser
- April 30—Retirement of Judge Jack Cook
- May 14—Judge Martin Colin receives South County Outstanding Jurist Award
- May 19—Judge Jack Cook receives North County Outstanding Jurist Award
- May 26—Judge Janis Keyser appointed to Circuit Court
- May 31— Judge Elizabeth Maass retires
- June 5—Judge Ted Booras holds Saturday Veterans' Court
- August 31—Rosemarie Scher appointed to Circuit Court
- September 8—Judge Ronald Alvarez receives William E. Gladstone Award
- December 2—Investiture of Judge Rosemarie Scher
- December 5—Judge Robert Panse appointed County Bench

*Best wishes to
Judges and staff for
a happy and
healthy 2012!*

RETIREMENT OF JUDGE KAREN MARTIN

Judge Karen L. Martin will retire in January, after a 30 year career in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. During her tenure, Judge Martin has served in every division of the court.

Judge Martin was initially appointed to the bench as a county judge in 1981 by Governor Bob Graham. In 1987, Governor Bob Martinez elevated her to the circuit court. Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Martin worked for the law firm Paty Downey Lewis Fick & Martin.

Judge Martin also worked in probate and civil courts, but she cared most about her juvenile cases. “She was a juvenile judge longer than in any other assignment, and I think she wanted to retire from juvenile court because that's where her heart is,” Chief Judge Peter Blanc said.



*Judge Martin's retirement
“will be a big loss to the
judiciary.
She's a big part of the
character
of our court.
She spent a large part of her
career
in juvenile court, and she has
the
characteristics of empathy and
caring disposition that you
need to handle the incredible
amount of tragedy and sorrow
that you deal with
in the juvenile courts.”*

Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc



Judge Martin (above) congratulates an adoptive family. One of the happier occasions for a juvenile judge is on “National Adoption Day”. (see also P. 10)

*“The children
and families
of this county
are losing a judge,
who truly cares
about them,
has a fine mind
and a
compassionate
heart.
We only hope
that she will return
to serve as a
senior judge,
when time allows.”*

Judge Ronald Alvarez

INVESTITURE OF JUDGE ROSEMARIE SCHER

Judge Rosemarie Scher was appointed by Governor Rick Scott to serve a six year term as a circuit court judge on October 5, 2011.

Judge Scher received her bachelor's degree from Florida Atlantic University and her law degree from the University of Florida College of Law.

Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Scher served as a traffic hearing officer since 2008 and practiced with Schwed, McGinley and Kahle, P.A.

Judge Scher's first judicial assignment is in the South County Courthouse serving in the family and probate division.

Her judicial assistant is **Debra Rosenblatt**. Debra has extensive experience as a judicial assistant in the area of family law.

The office can be reached at (561) 330-1705.

Family, colleagues, and friends gathered in the ceremonial courtroom 11A of the Palm Beach County Courthouse on December 2, 2011, for the investiture of **Judge Rosemarie Scher**.

Following the invocation from Father Brian Flanagan, Judge Scher's brother, **Angelo A. Gasparri**, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc then welcomed the group and acknowledged the Judicial Nominating Committee.

On behalf of Governor Rick Scott the Judicial Commission was presented by **Sharon R. Bock**, Clerk and Comptroller of Palm Beach County. Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc administered the Oath of Office.

The Bible was presented by **Gary S. Lesser**, Esq., representing the Florida Bar Board of Governors. **Judge Lisa Small** presented a deskplate on behalf of the Florida Conference of County Court Judges. The honor of enrobing Judge Scher went to her parents, **Angelo S. Gasparri** and **Rita Gasparri**.

Several traditional and ceremonial gifts were presented to Judge Scher: the gavel by **John M. Howe**, Esq., President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association; followed by other gifts presented by **Jay A. Schwartz**, President of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association; **Spencer T. Kuvn**, Esq., President of the Palm Beach County Justice Association and **Hubert S. McGinley**, Esq., Member of the Board of American Board Of Trial Attorneys (ABOTA), who provided endearing remarks on behalf of Judge Scher.

The ceremony concluded with Judge Scher acknowledging all attendees by reading a delightful poem which she composed on her appointment process as well as comments from her husband **Brian T Scher**, Esq.



l: Chief Judge Blanc administers the Oath of Office as Judge Scher's sister Nicole Gasparri holds the bible.

Photos: Courtesy of Patience Burns

r: Judge Scher is congratulated by her husband, Brian Scher.



ROBERT PANSE APPOINTED TO COUNTY COURT

PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

11/7/2011

Tallahassee, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott today announced the appointment of Robert G. Panse to the Palm Beach County Court.

Panse, 54, has been a senior attorney for the South Florida Water Management District since 1992. Previously, he practiced with Paxton, Crow, Bragg, Smith and Keyser P.A. from 1985 to 1991 and served as an assistant state attorney with the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office from 1982 to 1985. He received a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Albany and a law degree from Florida State University College of Law.

“With experience as a government lawyer, a private practitioner and a prosecutor, Robert brings to the bench an understanding of the law, as well as an awareness of the needs of those who will appear before him as a county judge,” Governor Scott said. “I am confident he possesses a strong commitment to justice, fairness and the rule of law.”

Panse will fill the vacancy created by the appointment of Judge Janis Keyser to the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court.

JUDICIAL ROTATION 2012

DIVISION	2011 ASSIGNMENT	2012 ASSIGNMENT	CHAMBERS/COURTROOM
<i>CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION</i>			
AB	D. Hafele	J. Kastrenakes	11.1204/11-B
AN	J. Cox	S. McSorley	10.1216/10-C
AO	T. Barkdull, III	C. Brunson	10-1213/10-D
<i>JUVENILE DIVISION</i>			
JO	K. Martin	D. Hafele	3.1404/3B
<i>FAMILY DIVISION</i>			
FA	C. Burton	J. Cox	6.2207/6K
FC	C. Brunson	T. Barkdull, III	6.2208/6J
FI	S. McSorley	Temporarily Vacant	NC/ 3
<i>PROBATE & GUARDIANSHIP DIVISION</i>			
II	S. McSorley	Temporarily Vacant	NC/3
<i>CIRCUIT CRIMINAL DIVISION</i>			
V	J. Kastrenakes	C. Burton	10.2208/10-G
<i>COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION</i>			
RL	G. Keyser	R. Panse (12/12/11)	6.1203/6-A
<i>MAGISTRATES</i>			
DOR	P. Bassaline	M. Williams	6.1105/6H
Family	S. Alijewicz	P. Bassaline	NC 1422
Family	M. Williams	S. Alijewicz	SC 2nd fl./ D

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION VISIT

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit hosted its annual Legislative Delegation event on October 24, 2011.

Legislative participants included **Representative Irv Slosberg** and his staff as well as staff representation from: **US Senator Rubio; State Senators Benacquisto, Bogdonoff and Negron; Representatives Bernard, Pafford and Rooney**; and the **Palm Beach County Legislative Office**.

After opening remarks by **Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc** the attendees observed several “courts in session” including Domestic Violence Court presided over by **Judge Sheree Cunningham**; Juvenile Court, **Judge Kathleen Kroll** and Foreclosure Court, presided over by **Judge Diana Lewis**.

The Judges and the Delegation discussed issues that affect the Courts, including the State budget deficit, the State Court budget, staffing, caseloads, and specialty courts.

In a thank you letter to those who attended, Chief Judge Peter Blanc wrote, “In difficult

economic times such as these, the business of the court increases. It is not surprising to find that there are more commercial disputes, more defaults, more divorces, and more crime when people are suffering financially. The sharp increase in foreclosures over the past few years is a dramatic example of the economy’s impact on the courts.”

This annual event allows the participants to have an open dialogue about issues of common interest and the challenges faced by the courts.



Judge Blanc (standing) addresses legislators and staff in the courtroom.

JUDICIAL LUNCHEON SERIES



On October 18, 2011, the Judicial Relations Committee, the Palm Beach County Bar Association presented a seminar entitled, “Trial Professionalism.” The judicial panel consisted of **Judge Lucy Chernow Brown, Judge Glenn Kelley and Judge Robin Rosenberg**.

l-r: Judge Robin Rosenberg, Judge Glenn Kelley , Judge Lucy Chernow Brown and the moderator Cyrus Niakan, Esq.

VETERANS' COURT

On November 10, 2011, the Fifteenth Circuit celebrated the one year anniversary of Veterans' Court. **Chief Judge Peter Blanc** welcomed over 80 attendees and acknowledged the Veterans' Court Planning Committee for their hard work.

Judge Ted Booras thanked the Chief Judge for initiating the implementation of Veterans' Court and for selecting him to preside over this Court.

Carla-Paula DaSilvia, Veterans' Justice Outreach Coordinator, was honored by Judge Booras for her hard work with screening and evaluating veterans for appropriate services. The lead mentors, **Roy Foster** and **Jerry Klein** were acknowledged for their efforts in overseeing the Volunteer Mentor Program. The Volunteer Mentors are trained to assist the defendants in successfully completing the appropriate services mandated by the Court.

This process allows the Court to take advantage of existing federally funded veterans' services, and creates no negative funding impact on the County. In fact, the services provided by the Veterans' Administration allows existing State and County resources and services to be used for the benefit of other defendants in the court system who otherwise might find the services unavailable.



Judge Booras participates in the "Guidon Presentation"



Chief Judge Peter Blanc (above left)

FYI

The Veterans' Docket was created November 11, 2010 pursuant to Administrative Order 4.905-11/10, signed by Chief Judge Peter Blanc. The following statistics are current, as of October 11, 2011:

- **201** Veterans have been referred to Veterans' Court; this represents 281 Court files;
- Of those 201 Veterans, **191** were Male and **10** were Female;
- Of the 281 Court files, **187** were misdemeanor cases, and **94** were felony cases;
- **193** Veterans have been connected or re-engaged with the Veterans Health Care Administration;
- **30** Veterans did not qualify for VA Benefits because they received a dishonorable discharge;
- **51** Veterans have been assigned Mentors;
- **12** Veterans were identified as homeless and housed in a Health Care for Homeless Veterans Contract Program, **6** have obtained gainful employment via the Compensated Work Therapy Program.
- **43** Veterans were transferred out of Veterans' Court and referred back to the original Criminal Division for various reasons, including but not limited to: demand for trial filed, State Attorney objected, ineligible for benefits.
- **53** Veterans have successfully completed all court requirements;
- Cost of pretrial incarceration has been reduced by **73%**

Domestic Violence Awareness

The Domestic Violence Awareness Month opening ceremony was held at the Main Judicial Center on Tuesday, October 4, 2011.

Judge Catherine Brunson, Administrative Judge of the Family Division introduced the guests including: **Michael McAuliffe**, State Attorney; **Ric Bradshaw**, Sheriff; **Sharon Bock**, Clerk & Comptroller; **Robert Bertisch**, Executive Director Legal Aid Society and **Perry Borman**, Department of Children and Families. The key-note speaker of the ceremony was **Judge Ted Booras**.



I: Judge
Ted
Booras



I: Judge
Catherine
Brunson

Judge Nelson Bailey: Florida Cracker Storyteller

On Saturday October 15, 2011, **Judge Nelson Bailey** shared interesting and historical stories as part of a featured story telling series, held at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park.

The stories highlight Florida's rich multi-cultural history and agricultural roots. They tell of the state's Native-American mound builders prior to the 1500s; of Spanish explorers, settlers, and ranchers during the 300 years that Florida was a possession of Spain; of the Seminoles, including the Black Seminoles; and finally, of Florida's cow hunters or "Cracker Cowboys" of yesteryear and today.

r: Judge Nelson Bailey
Photo by: Katrina Manuel



Judge Caroline Shepherd Honored

Judge Caroline Shepherd was recently honored as one of Florida Weekly's 2011 Power Women, who exemplify professionalism and dedication.



Judge Shepherd visited Elementary School children in Palm Beach Gardens and helped them understand the judicial branch by leading a mock trial of the "three little pigs" suing the "big, bad wolf" for the damages of "blowing the house down."

Judge Shepherd wants the children to know that they too can become a judge. She is proud to use this opportunity to show that the judiciary can do more than hand out decisions in the courtroom and that she can make a difference in a young persons' life.

Judge Meenu Sasser Honored

Judge Meenu Sasser was awarded by the Palm Beach County Justice Association (PBCJA) as the 2011 "Jurist of The Year."



The PBCJA is dedicated to inspiring excellence in advocacy, upholding the honor and dignity of the legal profession, and encouraging the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity of civil trial lawyers in Palm Beach County.

The ceremony was held on October 27, 2011 at the Colony Hotel. The PBCJA has more than 450 members, and many of them were present at the ceremony.

Past recipients of the award include: Justice Jorge Labarga and Judge Jonathan Gerber.

Judge Moses Baker Hosts "Open Court"

On October 26, 2011, **Judge Moses Baker, Jr.** (pictured below), hosted "Open Court" at the South County Courthouse. This event provided an opportunity for the public to observe juvenile court, as well as showcase an array of alternative programs and services utilized by Judge Baker in his division. The event drew a "standing room only" crowd and featured program providers and partners, including: Boys Town, Florida Youth Ranch, the Kelly Center, High Ridge Family Center and Mercy Ministries, as well as members of the Palm Beach County School District.



NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

November 18, 2011 was an exciting day and cause for celebration in the Fifteenth Circuit. Sixteen families opened their hearts and homes to give the greatest gift - a forever home to children.

Festivities began in the cafeteria with food and entertainment, including a magician, clown, caricaturist, and face painting. Opening ceremonies began with comments from the Honorable Karen Martin, followed by keynote speaker Jim Sackett. Perry Borman, the Southeast Regional Director of the Florida Department of Children and Families then gave special recognition to Judge Martin and Jim Sackett as they near their retirement. Marlene and John Horne were presented with the *JIM SACKETT AWARD* as a result of their years of dedication to the safety and well-being of children in Palm Beach County as foster and adoptive parents.

Four Juvenile Judges who work tirelessly each day to help provide safety and stability to children in the dependency system had the pleasure of finalizing the adoptions. Families were given the opportunity to spend time with the Judges and take pictures, as the Courtrooms were filled with love and laughter. The Fifteenth Circuit would like to extend a special “thank you” to the Judges who participated and finalized the adoptions: **Judge Ronald Alvarez, Judge Moses Baker Jr., Judge Kathleen Kroll and Judge Karen Martin.**

The event was hosted by Court Administration and coordinated by representatives from the following agencies: Children’s Home Society, Department of Children and Families, Children’s Legal Service, Legal Aid Society, Guardian Ad Litem Office, and Child and Family Connections.



l-r: Judge Moses Baker, Judge Kathleen Kroll, Judge Karen Martin and Judge Ronald Alvarez.



Above l: Judge Alvarez during a lighter moment ‘clowning’ it up at the opening ceremony. r: Judge Alvarez after an adoption.



Judge Baker congratulates a family on their adoption.

l-r: Linda Coffin, Cristy Altaro, Stephen Bardy, Linda Norris, Melissa Neeley



MEDIATION WEEK

The Fifteenth Circuit's Alternative Dispute Resolution Office celebrated Florida's Mediation Week with an educational event for the county court volunteer mediators. Mediation Week is an annual statewide event that recognizes the contributions of mediators to the state court system. **Judges Sandra Bosso-Pardo, Gregory Keyser, Nancy Perez, and Debra Moses Stephens** attended the event, to demonstrate the judiciary's support of our volunteer mediators.



Alternative Dispute Resolution Director Bill Moreno (standing) and Walter Colbath (not pictured) addresses a group of County Court judges and volunteer mediators.

COURT TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Judge James Martz and Court Technology Officer, **Noel Chessman** attended the 2011 Court Technology Conference October 4-6, in Long Beach California.

The conference occurs every two years and offers judges and technology directors the opportunity to view innovations in court technology.

Approximately 1,500 people attended the event sponsored by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).



l-r: Judge James Martz and Court Technology Officer Noel Chessman in front of the National Center for State Courts exhibit.

CHILD SAFETY GUIDE TRAINING

The Fifteenth Circuit's Model Dependency Court Team participated in all day training on the American Bar Association's Child Safety Guide for Judges and Attorneys on October 11, 2011. The Safety Guide details a process of critical thinking and analysis with the goal of enhanced child safety decision-making while addressing the fundamentals of safety assessments and planning. Court Administration was represented by **Judge Kathleen Kroll, Judge Ronald Alvarez, Magistrate Judette Fanelli, Mary Quinlan, Tara Kranz, Bill Moreno** as well as other court staff and community partners.



FORECLOSURE TRAINING

In Courtroom 2D on December 6, the foreclosure division (Division AW) provided a training for legal staff at law firms practicing in the area of foreclosures to discuss the procedural requirements of the division. The discussion was led by **Janny Phillips**, with assistance from **Angela Claud, Amy Borman, Pat Balch** and **Amy Stein** with the Clerk's office. Approximately eighty people attended the training, including legal staff, attorneys and unrepresented parties.



TRAFFIC HEARING OFFICERS RECEIVE CONTINUING EDUCATION

In October, for the very first time, Palm Beach County and Broward County joined forces in training new Traffic Hearing Officers. The training took place in the Broward County Courthouse located in Plantation, Florida.

Led by **Sara Blumberg**, Fifteenth Circuit Administrative Traffic Hearing Officer and her Broward counter-part, **Brenda Di Ioia**, eighteen new Traffic Hearing Officers spent over 40 hours learning all about traffic court procedures and substantive traffic law. The new hearing officers spent many hours in classroom training, rode along with law enforcement officers, listened to various members of the traffic defense bar, the clerk's offices, judges, and conducted courtroom observations and mentored sessions.



l-r: Chief Judge Peter Blanc, Miriam Acosta-Castriz, Linda Spector, Sarah Shullman

On November 29, after successfully completing their training, **Miriam Acosta-Castriz, Sarah Shullman**, and **Linda Spector** were sworn in by **Chief Judge Peter Blanc** as the Fifteenth Circuit's newest Traffic Hearing Officers.

COURT INTERPRETERS' CONTINUING EDUCATION

On October 25, 2011 **Judge Ronald Alvarez** held a training class for staff and contractual Court Interpreters entitled, "Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency Systems."

Judge Alvarez stated, "Anyone who comes into contact with anything on Planet Juvenile needs to have at least an overview of the procedures, terminology and the participants...this is especially true for people such as the interpreters who have to come in at any given point in the procedure and translate for the child or the parent. It is my belief that it would make the interpreters more comfortable in doing their interpretation, having some idea of the system in which the child or the parent finds themselves."



above: Judge Ronald Alvarez conducts the training session as Jakobie Alexander, Court Technology records it.

On December 1, 2011 the court hosted a recognition event for the Court Interpreters for being one of only three circuits in the state to have 100% of its staff certified. At the event **Chief Judge Peter Blanc** administered the Oath of Office and each staff member was presented with a Certificate of Achievement.

I-r: Chief Judge Peter Blanc, Sean Logsdon, Astrid Serruto, Debora Benchimol, Hans Belizaire, Rosa Amaral, Celia Munoz, Myrthel Ortiz, Fitzgerald Limontas, Irene Nocera, Angela Afanador.



UNIFIED FAMILY COURT STAFF RECEIVE ICMS TRAINING

In an effort to educate and update UFC case managers with the Internal Case Management System (ICMS) and the properties that could be used in that system to enhance and improve their case management responsibilities, **Shilpa Vuppalanchi**, Court Technology conducted a training session on November 15, 2011.

The UFC case managers from the Main Courthouse, North County and South County were introduced to already existing features and the new enhancement in ICMS. This training will be helpful to case managers to record their valuable work performance and improve their efficiency.



I-r: Stewart Saalfeld, Shilpa Vuppalanchi, Laura Lavoie, Brenda August, Linda Peters, Erika Ireland, Connie Thomas, Lisset Pinot, Eric Levande, Tara Kranz, Kathy Sanchez

TRIAL COURT LAW CLERKS

The following new staff attorneys joined the Circuit in the final quarter of 2011, to assist Circuit judges with legal research and assignments in criminal, civil and post-conviction issues.

Jessica Bober

Jessica is a double Gator graduating from both the undergraduate and law school *cum laude*. Jessica was a Senior Research Editor and Executive Research Editor for the Journal of Law and Public Policy, a teaching assistant, and President of the Health Care Law Society. She was awarded Honors in Legal Research and Writing and Appellate Advocacy. Jessica has interned at the Office of Attorney General (Medicaid Fraud Control Unit), Shands Hospital, and Three Rivers Legal Services. She was also a Research Assistant with the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network at the University of Miami and a Project Coordinator with the ES United States Department of Veterans Affairs in Gainesville.



Raul Novoa

Raul initialed interned with the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit during the summer of 2009. Raul received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Miami. He went on to complete his law degree at Emory University, where he was a Dean's Honor Scholarship recipient. Active in law school events, he was also a member of the Hispanic Law Society and awarded a Transactional Law Certificate while at Emory. Following law school graduation, Raul worked for Fidelity National Title Group. We are delighted that he has chosen to return to the Circuit, and join us as a permanent staff member. Raul's experience will be of value to new interns entering the summer program in 2012.



Deirdre Ziegenfuss

Originally from Tampa, Deirdre moved to D.C. where she received her undergraduate degree, *magna cum laude*, from Georgetown University and her law degree, with honors, from The George Washington University. Deirdre was a quarter finalist on the Mock Trial Board and a member of the Moot Court Board. With the George Washington International Law Review she wrote on the rights of Italian Roma under European anti-discrimination laws. Deirdre clerked/interned with the U.S. Department of Justice, the American Association of University Professors, the George Washington University Office of the General Counsel, and the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.



COLUMBUS DAY TRAINING

The Third Annual Columbus Day in-house training for court staff was held on October 10, 2011. Trial Court Administrator, **Barbara Dawicke**, assembled a variety of training sessions designed to help staff improve their skills in an enjoyable and relaxed atmosphere. The training day was funded in part by a grant from the Florida Court Education Committee's Florida Court Personnel Committee.



Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc (above) welcomed employees and thanked them for their continuous hard work.

Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc welcomed the gathering and thanked staff for their continued efforts towards assisting with the Circuit's operations. His presentation was followed by the Plenary speaker, **Del Suggs**, a Florida native with a colorful and award winning background in music and education. Del led the group of almost 200 participants through a session entitled, "How to Do Anything". After the plenary session other presenters from the local community, as well as court staff, held trainings including sessions on improving computer skills, yoga, relaxation, grammar, and personal safety.



Del Suggs (right) presented "Where's My Cheese", which offered suggestions and recommendations for a better work environment.



Scott Fronrath (above), a professor from Keiser University, presented "Identify Theft," which covered the consequences of having an individual's identity stolen and how to deter, detect, and defend against it. He also conducted a session on "Personal Safety" giving attendees tips on how to be safe in all locations.

Court Administration staff (below) enjoyed the plenary speaker Del Suggs.



COLUMBUS DAY TRAINING: (CONT.)



Other courses included **Myra Quinn**—“Eat That Frog,” how to adjust your “To Do List” using Brian Tracy’s techniques of Decision, Discipline and Determination.

(below)

David Cornin—“Stress Release & Meditation,” led participants through techniques useful for home and work.



(below)

Priyanka Shantag—“Yoga,” worked with attendees to develop breathing, physical postures, and meditation methods for healthier living



Roody Barthelemy, Court volunteer, “Basic Creole,” enlightened attendees on basic Creole words to help staff communicate.

Krista Garber (not pictured) presented “Business Etiquette,” reviewing guidelines for handling introductions, new technology, and awkward situations commonly encountered in the workplace.

New users to the Circuit’s case management system were given an introduction and pointers by **Noel Chessman** in the session, “How ICMS can Help You.”



Jakobie Alexander—“Computer Shortcuts,” provided a quick reference card for many useful shortcuts when using the computer



Lynn Anzalone—“Get a New Outlook!” described other uses of Outlook such as calendar viewing and creating rules.



MEET THE DEPARTMENTS

COURT INTERPRETERS

Court Interpreters are provided to the Criminal Divisions in the Circuit, County and Juvenile Courts as well as Dependency, Mental Health and Child Support proceedings. The use of competent court interpreters in proceedings involving speakers of languages other than English is critical to ensure that justice is carried out fairly for defendants and other stakeholders. The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit is one of three circuits in the state that currently has a full complement of certified staff interpreters. The others include the Eighth and the Eighteenth Circuits.

The interpreter's job is to interpret everything spoken by the defendant, Judge, attorneys, and others present in the courtroom, so that the non-English speaking person understands as clearly and accurately as if no language barrier existed. Qualified court interpreters perform simultaneous, consecutive and sight interpretations. The staff consists of 3 Creole and 7 Spanish interpreters, who also interpret French, German and Portuguese. Qualified on-call interpreters are contracted as needed for proceedings requiring American Sign Language, Polish, Russian, Bengali, French and more than 40 other languages and dialects.



Irene
Nocera:
July 1,
2004

In fiscal year 2010-2011, the Court Interpreting Department conducted 15,760 interpreter events in Spanish; 3,770 events in Creole; 242 exotic language events and 31 American sign-language events. In addition to interpreting events, staff interpreters translated 159 pages for the Court and Court Programs.



Angela
Afanador:
July 1,
2004



Rosa
Amaral:
July 1,
2004



Hans
Belizaire
July 1,
2004



Debora
Benchimol
July 1,
2004



Fitzgerald
Limontas:
Jan. 12,
2009



Sean
Logsdon:
July 1,
2004



Celia
Munoz:
June 19,
2006



Myrthel
Ortiz:
July 1,
2004



Astrid
Serruto:
Sept. 9,
2010

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

LISA BECK

Lisa Beck, Boynton Beach resident, has been volunteering since August in the South County Guardianship Visitation program.



ELAINE COHEN

Elaine Cohen is the newest member of the Guardianship Visitor program and will be assisting the staff on Thursday mornings at the South County Courthouse. A graduate of Salem State University, she is a year-round resident of Delray Beach, FL. Thanks to our friends at the RSVP program for referring Elaine.



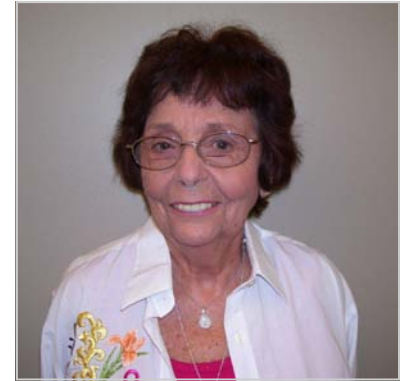
LUCILLE KILGALLON

Lucille Kilgallon, an experienced editor and proofreader, has received certification in paralegal studies. She has an extensive background in editing as well as experience in a law office. She is currently assisting in the Foreclosures Department.



LORETTA MOORE

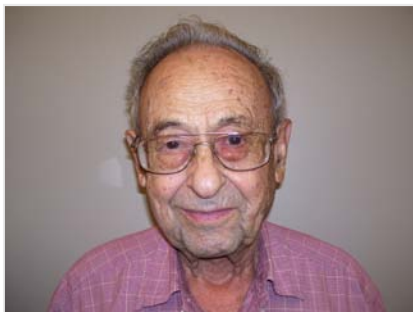
Loretta Moore, has recently joined as a volunteer with South County Guardianship Visitation program. She has been doing various volunteer work for many years and is enjoying meeting the families.



*No one is more cherished in this world
than someone who lightens the burden of another.
~Anonymous (2011)*

BERNARD FRAM

Bernard (Bernie) is a former volunteer who has returned to work in the South County Courthouse at the information desk.



*To all of our volunteers,
who have given countless hours
to assist the citizens of
Palm Beach County,
best wishes for
health and happiness
in 2012.*

WELCOME TO THE CIRCUIT

Audrie Leo—County Court Judicial Assistant, Oct. 10, 2011

Jennifer Patterson—Administrative Secretary I, Oct. 13, 2011

Astride Limouzin —Probate Assistant, Oct. 17, 2011

Jessica Bobar— Law Clerk, Oct. 19, 2011

Deidre Ziegenfuss— Law Clerk, Oct. 19, 2011

Shawn Garland—Computer Specialist II, Oct. 17, 2011

Reinaldo Llovet— Computer Specialist II, Oct. 11, 2011

Paula Carvajal—Court Analyst, Dec. 7, 2011

Janny Phillips —County Court Judicial Assistant., Dec. 5, 2011

Torina Jenkins-Edwards—County Court Judicial Assistant., Dec. 12, 2011

Dominique March— Chief of Personnel Services, Jan. 3, 2012.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Administrative Orders amended October 1-December 31, 2011:

10.409-10/11, Inactive Traffic Citations of Deceased Defendants

11.101-10/11, Assignment of Judges

11.102-10/11, Administrative Judges and Executive Committee

11.104-10/11, Seniority Listing of Judges

11.110-10/11, Appointment of Circuit Judges as Acting County Judges and County Judges as Acting Circuit Judges

5.101-10/11, Unified Family Court Jurisdiction

5.106-10/11, Notice of Related Cases Form in Unified Family Court Cases

5.805-11/11, Truancy Court

4.504-11/11, Felony Re-Assignment of Cases

2.601-11/11, Selection and Payment of Court Appointed Experts

11.109-11/11, Duty Judge Roster

2.701-12/11, Certified Process Servers

2.704-12/11, Extension of Reciprocity to Certified Process Servers of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit

2.707-12/11, Procedural Guidelines for Certified Civil Process Server Grievance Review Committee

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>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

8-13 Florida Judicial College (I)

20 Investiture of County Court Judge
Robert Panse

March

9 Annual Bench-Bar Conference

11-16 Florida Judicial College (II)

COURT HOLIDAYS JANUARY– APRIL 2012

January

2 New Years' Day

16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February

20 Presidents' Day

April

6 Good Friday



The Annual Court Administration Holiday Party was held on Friday December 9. Pictured l-r : Letitia Warren, Janet Leach-Ruth, Debra Oats-Ducram, Shilpa Vuppalachchi, Noel Chessman, Jakobie Alexander, Lynn Anzalone, Rich Haney, Adriane Gibbs, Rhoda Jones.

