

Circuit Courier

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NEWS BULLETIN OF THE
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Investiture of County Court Judge Daliah Weiss

Judge Kroll Receives Gladstone Award

And more.....



*On the Cover: Main Judicial Center
Photo by: Deputy LaFlamme*

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EMAIL SERVICE

Court Administration has developed an online registration system to help assist the judiciary in the use of e-mail service for the distribution of court documents, as authorized by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. This online registration system is separate and apart from the e-mail designations attorneys and pro se litigants are providing pursuant to the same rule.

This online system will allow attorneys and pro se litigants to receive email service from the participating judicial divisions*.

The online registration system currently has an attorney's email address on file with The Florida Bar as the default email address. Once registered, the attorney can choose to receive emails from participating judicial divisions at the default email address or change it to a preferred address. Attorneys will be able to add alternate email addresses to their profile. Using the attorney's bar number, the system can import, for the attorney's review, a list of cases for which the attorney is counsel of record. The attorney has the ability, but is not required, to designate specific secondary email addresses on a case by case basis.

The system is compatible with Court Administration's online scheduling system, so only one user ID and password will be needed to access any future court administration online service. All users can register and reset passwords automatically online. Pro se litigants can register using their case number. Case numbers will be validated before allowing a pro se litigant to register.

*A list of participating divisions can be found on the circuit's website at www.15thcircuit.com or on the judge's web page.

INVESTITURE OF JUDGE DALIAH WEISS

Judge Daliah Weiss was appointed to the County Court by Governor Rick Scott effective May 18, 2012.

Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Weiss was an assistant state attorney with the State Attorney's Office in Palm Beach since 1996, where she was Chief of the County Court and Family Violence Units.

Prior to that, she was Chief of the Special Victims Unit.

Judge Weiss received a bachelor's degree from Emory University and a law degree from Villanova University School of Law.

Judge Weiss's first assignment is in Civil Division "RS" in the South County Courthouse, Delray Beach.

Her judicial assistant is Gloria Lozano. The office can be reached at 561-330-1712.

Family, colleagues, and friends gathered in ceremonial courtroom 11A of the Palm Beach County Main Judicial Center on August 24, 2012, for the investiture of **Judge Daliah Weiss** as a County Court Judge for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

Following the invocation from Rabbi David Abrams, Jacob Weiss, son of Judge Weiss, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc then welcomed the group and acknowledged the Judicial Nominating Committee. The Judicial Commission, signed by **Governor Rick Scott**, was presented by **Sharon R. Bock**, Clerk and Comptroller of Palm Beach County.

Judge Frank S. Castor presented a desk plate on behalf of the Florida Conference of County Court Judges. A Bible was presented by Michelle Suskauer, Esq., representing the Florida Bar Board of Governors.

Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc administered the Oath of Office as Lara Weiss, daughter of Judge Weiss, held the Bible. The honor of enrobing went to her parents, Dr. Maximo and Fanny Handel.

Several traditional and ceremonial gifts were presented to Judge Weiss:

The gavel was presented by Adam T Rabin, Esq., President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association; followed by other gifts presented by Larry Corman, Esq, President of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association; Michael J. Pike, Esq., President of Palm Beach County Justice Association, and John J. Wilke, Esq., Vice President of the Palm Beach Chapter of the American Board of Trial Attorneys (ABOTA).

Following remarks by **Judge Lucy Brown** and Jason S. Weiss, Esq., Judge Weiss thanked her family and members of the Judiciary who were present.

The ceremony concluded with the benediction from Rabbi David Abrams.



JUDGE KATHLEEN KROLL RECEIVES THE WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE AWARD

“Please join me in congratulating the **Honorable Kathleen J. Kroll** for her nomination and selection as this year's recipient of the William E. Gladstone Award.

Judge Kroll was presented the award September 2012 at the Statewide Dependency Court Improvement Summit in Orlando, Florida. The Gladstone Award recognizes the important contributions made by Judges and Magistrates in the courts serving dependent children and their families. The award, first given in 1998 to Judge William E. Gladstone, by Florida's Supreme Court Chief Justice Major Harding, was given ‘In recognition of (William E. Gladstone's) lifelong advocacy for the dignity of children.’



From my perspective, one of Judge Kroll's most outstanding contributions to the juveniles coming through our court system was the introduction of School District liaisons in the juvenile courts. When Judge Kroll was Chief Judge, she convinced the School District to provide those liaisons to the court. Their consistent presence in court greatly improves the Court's ability to hold both students and parents accountable, thereby improving our ability to keep children in school.

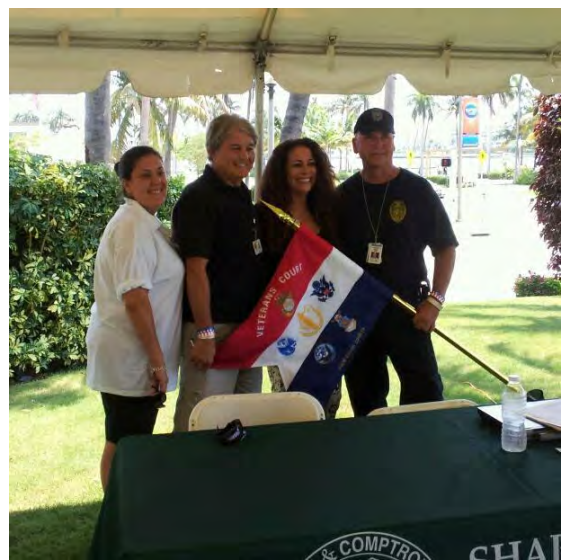
We are fortunate here in the Fifteenth Circuit to have juvenile judges that choose to be in their assignments and care greatly about the youth that they serve. Judge Kroll's selection for the Gladstone Award is a reaffirmation of the outstanding work done by all of our juvenile judges.”

Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc

VETERANS' COURT

Veterans Court, initiated by **Chief Judge Peter Blanc** and **Judge Ted Booras**, officially commenced on November 11, 2010. Judge Booras presides over the Court with support from Court Administration, the Veterans Administration, the Clerk, the State, the Public Defender, and members from the veteran community.

This Court is a nationwide Veterans' Administration Court model because it is a resolution court rather than a diversion court and because the litigants permitted into the Court include felonies. On June 30, 2012 in downtown West Palm Beach local veterans groups conducted the second annual Stand Down event. The event was an outreach service to American Military Veterans and a variety of services was offered. The Veterans Court Team assisted veterans with open misdemeanor and traffic offenses; approximately 700 Veterans attended the event and the Court assisted over 20 of those Veterans.



l-r: Carla DaSilva, Judge Ted Booras, Tivi Parks, and Louis Kurtz

DEPENDENCY SUMMIT 2012

The Florida Department of Children and Families hosted their annual child protection summit – “Realizing Change.”

The summit took place September 5-7, 2012, at the J.W. Marriott in Orlando. It was an exciting opportunity for child welfare professionals throughout the state to share best practices and continue the advancement of child welfare practice in Florida.

At the summit, child protective investigators, community-based care administration and case management staff as well as judges, general magistrates, court personnel, attorneys, law enforcement, medical and mental health providers and child advocates joined together to benefit from increased coordination, communication and creativity amongst their fields.



Mary Quinlan, Judge Ronald Alvarez, Cristy Altaro

Palm Beach County was well represented at the Summit. **Judges Kathleen Kroll and Ronald Alvarez, Donald Hafele, and Judge Nelson Bailey** represented the Fifteenth Circuit's juvenile court. Others present from the Circuit included: Magistrate Judette Fanelli, Cristy Altaro, Mary Quinlan, and Gabriel Munoz. Additionally, community partners and stakeholders from the following agencies were also present: Department of Children and Families, Child & Family Connections, Children's Legal Services, Guardian Ad Litem, Legal Aid Society, Office of Regional Conflict Counsel, conflict attorneys, Palm Beach County School District, and others.

The statewide summit offered more than two days of informative and interactive workshops as well as several featured speakers. The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's therapy dog program was one of the featured sessions. Judge Alvarez, Magistrate Fanelli, along with Susan Walker, dog handler (with therapy dog Orlaith) discussed the program and the success stories related to the program.

Additionally, Judge Kathleen Kroll was awarded the 2012 William E. Gladstone Award, which recognizes the important contributions made by Judges and Magistrates in the courts serving dependent children and their families. The award, first given in 1998 to Judge William E. Gladstone by Florida's Supreme Court Chief Justice Major Harding, was given "In recognition of (William E. Gladstone's) lifelong advocacy for the dignity of children." (see P. 5)

FAMILY LAW

The Family Law Section presented The Florida Bar Foundation with a \$75,000 gift to support Children's Legal Services grants to Florida's local legal aid organizations.

The gift is in response to the impending loss of legal aid attorney positions due to the decline in IOTA funds.

Each \$1 donated generates \$15 (plus) in legal services. Therefore, the \$75,000 gift from the Family Law Section will deliver over \$1 million in legal services to Florida citizens through various local legal service organizations.



L-r: Diane M. Kirigin (Past Chair), Carin M. Porras (Current Chair), David L. Manz (Immediate Past Chair) of the Family Law Section of The Florida Bar, Michael Faehner, Florida Bar Foundation Fellow.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COURT MANAGEMENT

The National Association for Court Management (NACM) hosted their annual conference – “Promotion Improved Court Leadership and Governance” July 15-19, 2012 in Orlando at the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek.

The conference was an opportunity for court professionals, throughout the country, to share best practices and focus on practical steps for court improvement. The national conference was attended by Fifteenth Circuit court staff who attended the informative and interactive workshops as a way to enhance their knowledge of best practices, improve leadership, and increase public trust in the courts.



L-r: Michelle Spangenberg, Tara Kranz, Devon Mugridge, Mary Quinlan, Noel Chessman

MEDIATION CONFERENCE

The 20th Annual Conference for Mediators took place August 23-25, 2012, in Orlando, Florida. The Trial Court Administrator, Barbara Dawicke, and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Director, Bill Moreno, attended the statewide meeting for Directors prior to the commencement of the Conference.

Supreme Court Justice Peggy Quince, and **Supreme Court Justice Charles Canady** addressed the Conference attendees, stressing the Court's appreciation of the contributions that mediators throughout the state make to the state court system.

Judges, mediators, attorneys, educators, and other professionals from every circuit gathered to discuss matters that impact the courts, including ethics issues, cultural diversity, and how ADR can best serve the court process.



Supreme Court Justice Peggy Quince addresses the audience via video-conference.

E-SERVICE TRAINING

In order to help facilitate the move toward electronic service as set forth in new Rule of Judicial Administration 2.526, General Counsel Amy Borman and Chief Technology Officer Noel Chessman, facilitated numerous training sessions for judges and court staff.

The presentations discussed the new rule, the impact on the practice of law, and the new online registration program created by the court's technology department. Attorneys practicing in Palm Beach County will register their firm information, including primary and secondary email addresses, which will then be available for those judicial divisions choosing to serve by email. Cases in the court's case management system will be linked to the attorney's email address through the associated Florida Bar number. Once registered, attorneys will be able to manage the email addresses assigned to each case in which they are attorney of record.



Amy Borman (standing) addresses the group with co-facilitator Noel Chessman (seated).

“CARING CANINES”-THERAPY DOG PROGRAM

The Circuit’s therapy dog program, also known as *Caring Canines*, was initiated by **Judge Ronald Alvarez** and Magistrate Judette Fanelli and implemented in January, 2012.

The program started with one volunteer handler, Susan Walker and the therapy dog, Orlaith. It now has over 20 volunteer handler/dog teams. The goals of the program are to provide comfort and solace to children during potentially stressful court experiences. The dogs act as a distraction and focal point for the children helping them overcome the anxiety of being in the courthouse and gives them a positive reason for attending court. The impact on the children is enormous and visible. The Juvenile judges have noticed that the children are more relaxed and comfortable in the proceedings.



A unique feature of the program is that the therapy dogs are permitted in the hallways, courtrooms, and child-friendly room with the children. The dogs are brought in for dependency hearing and judicial review hearings in the Main Courthouse. The hope is to eventually expand the program to the South and West courthouses.

On August 8, Judge Alvarez and Magistrate Fanelli held an appreciation event for the volunteer handlers. The handlers were recognized for the time and effort they donate to the program.



Judge Ronald Alvarez administering the Oath of Deputy Dog

Caring Canines Mission:

“Offering court-involved children faced with challenging family circumstances an opportunity to actively participate in cases and interact with family in a friendly, more relaxed environment through the use of loving therapy dogs.”

FAMILY DRUG COURT GRADUATION

On September 12, 2012, at a graduation ceremony, **Judge Kathleen Kroll** honored two graduates who successfully completed the requirements of the Circuit Family Drug Court Program.

One graduate, "Sarah" (see left photo), entered the program in 2011 and completed her residential and outpatient treatment through the Drug Abuse Foundation. The second, "Evelyn" (see right photo), entered the program in 2010. She completed the residential treatment program at PANDA and outpatient treatment at Gratitude House. Because of their success, both graduates have been reunited with their children.



Mission of Family Drug Court:

"To decrease the incidence of child abuse and neglect, intervene in the family risk factors, and reduce the likelihood of negative outcomes for the children by addressing the substance use of the parents and the service needs of the children and parents through an integrated, court based collaboration among service providers who work as a team to achieve timely decisions, coordinated treatment and ancillary services."

SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM

On August 1, 2012, the Family Nurturing Center (FNC) became the provider for supervised visitations and monitored exchanges in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

The FNC was established in 1993 in Jacksonville and was the first visitation center in the State. Under the direction of Stella Johnson, the mission of the FNC is to "provide a nurturing environment for families impacted by divorce, custody battles, and domestic violence, by keeping children safe during challenging times and helping parents foster positive relationships with their children."

Prior to the transition, Ms. Johnson met with the Family Court Judges, Magistrates, and local family law attorneys to explain the program and its benefits. Initially, the supervised visitations will continue to take place in the Main Courthouse. Ms. Johnson intends to find a more suitable and family-friendly location in West Palm before branching out to North and South. To assist the program, former chair of the Family Law section of the Florida Bar, Magistrate Diane Kirigin, present the Family Nurturing Center with a \$5,000 donation from the Family section.



l-r: Ron Borstein, Robin Scher, Abigail Beebe, Elisha Roy, Magistrate Diane Kirigin, Stella Johnson, Debra Oats

TRIAL COURT LAW CLERKS

On September 12, 2012, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit welcomed two new trial court law clerks who will assist the judiciary at the Main Judicial Courthouse.

Leslie Arsenault, Esq.

Leslie graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in December 2008 and received her Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from the University of Florida in May 2012. Prior to attending law school Leslie worked as a Legal Assistant to a law firm in Gainesville. While in law school, Leslie was an Appellate Advocacy Teaching Assistant, a Legal Research & Writing Teaching Assistant, member of the Phi Delta Phi Honors Fraternity and completed an externship with the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Leslie also worked as a judicial intern with the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit during the summer of 2010 and as a law clerk for a probate/guardianship law firm during the summer of 2011.



Monica Haddad, Esq.

Monica graduated from the University of Florida, *Phi Beta Kappa*, with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Following graduation, Monica attended the University of Texas at Austin where she received a Master of Science in Information Studies. Monica then returned to the University of Florida where she obtained her Juris Doctor, *cum laude*. While in law school, Monica was a Senior Research Editor and an Articles Editor for the *Journal of Technology Law and Policy*, was a member of the Moot Court Team and a Teaching Assistant in the Legal Writing Program. Her distinctions include: Regional Champion - Boston, ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition, Best Brief Award - Boston, ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition and Best Oralist, Intramural Final Four Competition - University of Florida. Monica's work experience includes an internship at the FBI (Jacksonville), an externship with the US Attorney's Office (N.D.FL), serving as a Research Assistant to Professor William Page, and being a Reference Librarian at Nova Southeastern University.



Summer Judicial Interns

The 2012 summer judicial interns finished their internship on August 3. During the month of July, summer interns Samantha Robbins, Spencer Keyser, Seth Rosenthal, Laura Brickell, Robert Bernstein, Sean Smith, Stratton Smiley and Alissa Kranz attended juvenile drug court with **Judge Ronald Alvarez**, adult drug court and mental health court with **Judge Krista Marx**, visited with the Child Protection Agency, and observed federal court proceedings with **District Judge Kenneth Marra**. The interns, along with Trial Court Law Clerks Jennifer Printz, Matt Ocksrider, Luisa Berti, Deirdre Ziegenfuss, Jessica Bober, Dolores Francis, Raul Novoa, Michele Nihiser and Angela Claud spent a morning with **Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente** who gave words of advice to the attorneys' and interns about young lawyers and the practice of law.

NEW CHIEF OF PERSONNEL SERVICES

Germaine Zedonia English has been selected to serve as the Chief of Personnel Services for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Effective September 10, 2012, she will oversee the Human Resources Division of the Court.

Ms. English obtained a law degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in May 2012. She holds a Masters of Arts in Management from Fontbonne University, St Louis, Missouri, and a Bachelors of Arts in Human Resources from Webster University, St Louis, Missouri.

She has more than ten years of experience in Human Resources encompassing expertise in employee relations, benefits, compensation, and recruitment. Most recently, and while in law school, she clerked with an Orlando firm. Prior to law school she worked in Seattle in the private sector in Human Relations and Health and Welfare Benefits.



Germaine English

Team Building Workshop- Family Case Management

On August 10, 2012, Family Case Mangers gathered to attend a Team Building Workshop to discuss the Family Case Management Mission and Vision Statement and to brainstorm about team effectiveness.

The Family Case Managers had the opportunity to voice their opinions relating to the improvement of family case management, areas of concern, and solutions to address the concerns. As part of the Team building exercise, the case managers developed an action plan for their workload and formed committees to update specific sections of a Family Case Management procedure manual.



L-r: Connie Thomas, Erika Ireland, Tara Kranz, Linda Peters, Laura Lavoie, Ruth Ann Kravetz

WELCOME:

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit welcomes the following new employees:

Denise Amparo	Digital Court Reporter	07/02/12
Nicolette Anderson	Judicial Assistant	07/02/12
Laurie Brown	Electronic Transcriber	07/02/12
Gloria Lozano	Judicial Assistant	07/02/12
Ilona Lupowitz	Court Reporter II	07/02/12
Kelly Squire	Digital Court Reporter	07/02/12
Elaine Burdock	Admin. Secretary 1	07/09/12
Gina Evangelista	Admin. Assistant II	07/09/12
Kimberly Johnson	Electronic Transcriber	07/09/12
Jacqueline Seidner	Electronic Transcriber	07/09/12
Shane Hussey	Messenger	07/23/12
Diana Aldana	Senior Secretary	08/01/12
Nikki Morrow	Admin. Assistant II	09/04/12
William Hutchings, Jr.	HR Court Op. Manager	09/05/12
Germaine English	Chief of Personnel Serv.	09/10/12
Leslie Arsenault	Trial Court Law Clerk	09/12/12
Monica Haddad	Trial Court Law Clerk	09/12/12

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Administrative Orders amended July 1—September 30, 2012:

- 4.501-7/12 Interviews of Young Victims in Child and Sexual Abuse Cases
- 2.606-7/12 Appointment of Chief Judge Designee to Hear Requests by General Registry Attorneys for Additional Compensation
- 4.607-7/12 Misdemeanor In-Custody Cases
- 2.205-7/12 Court Disaster and Emergency Procedures
- 4.307-8/12 Rescission of No Contact Orders
- 4.801-9/12 Mentally Ill, Violent or Suicidal Jail Inmates: Examination and Transfer to the Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services
- 11.503-9/12 Circuit Contracts
- 2.604-9/12 Court Appointed Counsel
- 4.410-9/12 Department of Corrections Reentry Program
"Thinking for a Change"
- 2.207-9/12 Requests for Accommodations Under the Americans with Disabilities Act
- 10.401-9/12 Assignment of Civil Traffic Infractions
- 11.110-9/12 Appointment of Circuit Judges as Acting County Judges & County Judges as Acting Circuit Judges

For updates to the latest Administrative Orders (AO's) for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, please see our website at:

<http://15thcircuit.com/adminorders>

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

8 Columbus Day Training
8-Nov 2 State Open Enrollment

November

1 National Adoption Day
16 New Attorney Breakfast

December

7 Staff Holiday Luncheon

COURT HOLIDAYS

November

12 Veterans' Day
22-23 Thanksgiving

December

24-25 Christmas

LAW LIBRARY SERVICES

Military Employment Verification

TV/DVD/Elmo Rental

Email/Fax Service

Westlaw

Blank Orders

Stamped Envelopes

561 355-2928

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