

Circuit Courier

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

Magistrate Maxion Sworn In
Dependency Summit
Veterans' Court

And more.....



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

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The Conference of Circuit Court Judges was held this year August 5-8 in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Florida Statute 26.55 requires that conference members meet regularly to:

1. *Consider and make recommendations concerning the betterment of the judicial system of the state and its various parts;*
2. *Consider and make recommendations concerning the improvement of rules and methods of procedure and practice in the several courts; and*
3. *Report to the Supreme Court such findings and recommendations as the conference may have with reference thereto.*

Not only is this a wonderful opportunity for Florida's Circuit Judges to receive continuing education, but it is also their opportunity to make recommendations to the legislature regarding any "defects in the laws of this state." (F.S.26.55 (3) (b).

The conference is attended annually by as many as 400 Circuit Court Judges. Many of the judges from this circuit attended.

At the meeting, the Fifteenth Circuit's Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath was voted Chair-elect. His term as Conference Chair will begin in August, 2014. In addition to holding meetings to discuss statewide issues and appointing judges to various Conference subcommittees, it is the Chair's responsibility to report conference recommendations for improvement of the judicial system to the President of the Florida Senate and the Speaker of the House.



Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath

*For more information on the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges please visit the web site at:
<http://www.flcircuitconference.com/index.htm>*

MAGISTRATE JORGE MAXION

Jorge L. Maxion was appointed by Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath as a Magistrate in the Foreclosure Division. Magistrate Maxion began his duties in the Main Courthouse on July 1, 2013. Magistrate Maxion obtained his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Miami school of Law. He worked in private practice for twenty-two years and is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocacy (ABOTA).



Magistrate Jorge Maxion, accompanied by his wife, is being sworn in by Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath.

Veterans' Court

On Saturday, August 10, Veterans' Court honored the volunteer mentors with a recognition luncheon. The luncheon was paid for by the funds awarded from the Davis Productivity Award. **Judge Ted Booras** began the ceremony by welcoming and thanking the mentors for their hard work and dedication. Several mentors expressed their gratitude and appreciation for being recognized.



Judge Ted Booras (third from right) stands with the Veterans' Court team and mentors.

Technology Conference

On September 16, 2013, **Judge Richard Oftedal**, Court Technology Officer Noel Chessman, and Senior Programmer Rich Haney attended the Court Technology Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

The conference occurs every two years and brings together over a thousand judges and IT decision makers from around the world to participate in technology sessions and to meet with leading vendors in the court technology arena. Judge Oftedal attended as a representative of Court Administration's Executive Technical Committee, which assists the Chief Judge in developing technology standards for the Circuit.

This year's conference focused on paperless courts and maximizing mobile devices, and included a keynote address by Alec Ross, former Senior Advisor for innovation for Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The trio is pictured here aboard the US Constellation, located in Baltimore's inner harbor. In the distance is Fort McHenry, which was attacked during the war of 1812 and inspired Francis Scott Key to draft the poem that would become the "Star Spangled Banner."



Rich Haney, Judge Richard Oftedal and Noel Chessman aboard the US Constellation.

Foreclosure Initiative Training Program - August 7-9, 2013, Daytona Beach.

The Office of the State Courts Administrator held a statewide foreclosure training for the judges and staff involved in handling the foreclosure caseload. The Fifteenth Circuit sent a team of Circuit Judges, Senior Judges, the Foreclosure Magistrate and Court staff. The two day training addressed foreclosure legislation and best practices. **Judge Meenu Sasser** was one of the presenters at the training.



l-r: Judge Meenu Sasser, Senior Judge Roger Colton, Pat Balch and Devon Mugridge

The Foreclosure Team



Back l-r: Jacarri Walker, John Maher, Conita Kuhn, Deron Harris, Andy Dorinvil, Patricia Balch, Daniel Sackie-Mensah

Front l-r: Katheryn Workman, Devon Mugridge, Lucille Kilgallon, Shamina Saemmer, Julianne Davis, Jacqueline Meyer, Jonique Hale, Gabriella Rico

Dependency Summit

The Florida Department of Children and Families hosted their annual child protection summit August 28-30, at the Peabody Hotel in Orlando. It was an 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.

The Fifteenth Circuit facilitated two workshops: "Children in Court: Enhancing Their Experience" and "The Importance of the School/Court Partnership in Dependency Court." The Circuit was represented at the Summit by: **Judge Donald Hafele, Judge Kathleen Kroll, Judge James Martz,** Magistrate Judette Fanelli, Juvenile Manager Cristy Altaro, Chief Deputy Court Administrator Mary Quinlan, Court Program Specialists Kathy Sanchez and Brenda August.

Community partners and stakeholders from the following agencies also attended: Department of Children and Families, Child Net, Guardian Ad Litem, Legal Aid Society, attorneys, Palm Beach County School District and others. The statewide summit offered more than two days of informative and interactive workshops as well as a number of featured speakers.

Mediation Conference

The 21st Annual Conference for Mediators, "Expanding Our Horizons", took place August 9-10, 2013, in Orlando, Florida. Alternative Dispute Resolution Director, Bill Moreno, and Mediators Danni Hoefling, George Polacek, and Lourdes Castillo attended the Conference.

Attendees also included judges, attorneys and other professionals who listened as speaker Chief Justice Ricky Polston stressed the Court's appreciation of the integral role of mediation in the State Court system.



l-r: George Knox, attorney; Janice Fleischer, Director, OSCA/Dispute Resolution Center; Ricky Polston, Chief Justice, Florida Supreme Court; Bill Overton.

Photo: Bill Moreno

Delinquency Drug Court Graduation

At a graduation ceremony on July 10, 2013, **Judge Ronald Alvarez** honored a graduate who successfully completed the requirements of the Delinquency Drug Court (DDC) Program.

Participants, family members, advocates, Drug Court Team members, stakeholders and community members were present to recognize the participant's accomplishment. Judge Alvarez provided the Court attendees with an overview of the graduate's life history and presented the graduate with a certificate of completion.

DDC targets youth on probation who have committed drug-related offenses and/or have a history of substance abuse. The goal of the DDC is to reduce juvenile crime and drug use. Success requires the participant and the participant's family to participate in all steps of the program.



Judge Ronald Alvarez with graduate.

Workshop on Psychotropic Medicines

On August 2, the Circuit hosted a community education session: "The use of psychotropic medicines in children and adolescents: facts and myths." The workshop was open to the Judiciary, court personnel and community partners working with youth in the juvenile court system. The guest speakers, Dr. Daniel Castellanos and Dr. Leonard Gralnik, are from the Department of Psychiatry at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Florida International University. The speakers addressed such topics as: identifying the different names and classes of common psychotropic medicines; recognizing indications for different psychotropic medications and typical side effects; as well as myths regarding the use of psychotropic medications.



Book Donation

On September 16th, the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County donated a generous number of books to the Juvenile Court. The boxes and boxes of books, of all reading levels and varieties, also included puzzles. Some of the books and puzzles will be distributed to children who appear in court while some will be kept in the Juvenile library.

The Circuit would like to extend a special thank you to Bob Bertisch, Executive Director, and to his staff at the Legal Aid Society.



Legal Aid representatives, Judge Kathleen Kroll, Robert Bertisch, Magistrate Judette Fanelli, Judge Ronald Alvarez

Adopt-a-Bear

On August 2, 2013, Palm Beach County Juvenile Courts were presented with a supply of brand new stuffed animals, courtesy of the Adopt A Bear program based in Miami.

Judge Ronald Alvarez, Judge Donald Hafele, Judge Kathleen Kroll and Magistrate Judette Fanelli were presented with several boxes of teddy bears to be given out to the children who appear before them.

Special thanks to Adopt-a-Bear for coordinating the special event.



Adopt-a-Bear representative, Judge Ronald Alvarez, Judge Donald Hafele, Judge Kathleen Kroll, Magistrate Judette Fanelli.

TRIAL COURT LAW CLERKS

During the month of July, the Trial Court Law Clerks and the summer interns toured several facilities in Palm Beach County including: the Palm Beach County Sheriff Office's Crime Lab; the Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office; the Historic Courthouse; and the Clerk and Comptroller's Office.

During their visit with the Palm Beach County Sheriff Office they participated in two "ride alongs", one for a DUI Saturation Patrol and the other to observe civil process. At the Medical Examiners Office they observed an autopsy.

They also visited Quantum House where dinner was prepared for the families whose children are being treated at St. Mary's Hospital.

In addition to a lunch and learn with local civil practitioners, the interns and law clerks met with attorneys from the various criminal justice offices including: the Attorney General's Office; the State Attorney's Office; the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel; the Public Defender's Office; and the United State's Department of Justice.

The last lunch and learn of the summer included attorneys from other governmental agencies including: the Palm Beach County Attorney's Office, Legal Aid of Palm Beach County, the Guardian Ad Litem Office, the Delray Beach Police Department, and the Department of Children and Families.



Interns Cooper Jarnigan and Edward Grodin at the PBSO's Crime Lab.



Trial Court Law Clerks and summer interns at the Historic Courthouse.

Back Row: Deirdre Ziegenfuss, Esq., Lars Altman, Cooper Jarnigan, Zack Rothman, Ben Kennard, Esq., Luisa Berti, Esq., Edward Grodin, Leslie Metz, Esq., Alexandra Bargoot, Chris Weeg

Front Row: Michael Selig, Annie Duong, Monica Haddad, Esq.

TRIAL COURT LAW CLERKS

In August, the Trial Court Law Clerk Program welcomed four new law clerks:

Rachel Belcher

Rachel was a summer intern with the Fifteenth Circuit in 2011. Rachel received a BA in English and Criminology from the University of Florida in 2010 and her JD from Emory University School of Law in May 2013. While at Emory, Rachel was a recipient of the Emory Law Scholarship and the G. Conley Ingram Scholarship which is awarded for excellence in oral advocacy. She was a Top 10% Oral Advocate in the Legal Research, Writing, and Advocacy Program. Rachel was both a competitor and a coordinator for the Emory Law Mock Trial Society where she placed first at the William Daniel National Mock Trial Competition, was a regional semifinalist at the Texas Young Lawyers Association Competition and a quarterfinalist at the National Trial Advocacy Competition. In addition to interning with this Circuit, Rachel has interned with the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office and the United States Department of Education Office of Civil Rights. She also worked during the summer of 2012 with the law firm of Colson Hicks Eidson in Coral Gables, Florida.



Sean Fahey

Sean received his BA, *cum laude*, in History from the University of Florida in 2008 and his Master of Arts in History in May 2009. Sean attended the University of Alabama School of Law where he graduated *summa cum laude* in May 2012 (seventh in his class). Sean was the Senior Editor of the Alabama Law Review and was on the John A. Campbell Moot Court Board. He was a member of the Order of the Coif, a Hugo Black Scholar, and received the Best Paper in Constitutional Law and Poverty Law. While in law school, Sean was a Certified Legal Intern for the Civil Law Clinic and was a summer law clerk for the DeKalb County Public Defender in Georgia and the Orleans Public Defender in Louisiana. After graduating from law school, he clerked for Federal Magistrate Judge W. Leon Barfield in the Southern District of Georgia.



Christine Gardner

Christine received her BA in Government with a minor in Economics from Colby College in Waterville, Maine, where she was a 2008 Bin Ling Fellowship Recipient. Christine received her JD in May 2013 from Rutgers University School of Law where she was the Marketing Editor for the Rutgers Journal of Law & Public Policy and received the 2013 Albert P. Blaustein Award for excellence in legal scholarship. Christine has interned with Social Security Administration's Office of the General Counsel in Philadelphia, PA, the Office of the Federal Public Defender in Camden, NJ, Federal Magistrate Judge Timothy Rice in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Federal District Judge Charles Siragusa in the Western District of New York. While in law school, Christine was a Certified Legal Intern for the Children's Justice Clinic where she represented juveniles in delinquency court. Christine is also a sailing coach.



Gabrielle Jackson

Gabrielle received her BS in Journalism from the University of Florida in 2010. She received her JD in May 2013 from Wake Forest University School of Law where she was a Research Assistant and was part of the Community Law & Business Clinic. Gabrielle was also a member of the Career Advisory Board, a Group Leader of the Academic Success Program, and a member of the Black Law Students Association. Gabrielle completed internships/externships at the Attorney General's Office (Economic Crimes Division) in Jacksonville, Florida; United States Department of Justice in Washington, DC., and with Federal Judge Micaela Alvarez for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. Gabrielle published two articles while working with the Litigation Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of the American Bar Association.



AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Excellence Awards

Congratulations to those persons nominated for the Judicial Assistant (JA) Recognition Award for the second quarter of 2013:

Stefanie Lee, Dawn McClelland, Marie Murphy, Rebecca (Becky) Ricker, Jessica Wolfkill.

Congratulations, also, to those persons nominated for the Court Administration employee of the second quarter of 2013:

Jakobie Alexander, Reinaldo Llovet, Rolando Tatum.

The Selection Committee had a difficult time choosing a final candidate for each category because of the quality of the candidates.

On September 9, the results were announced at a ceremony and Rebecca Ricker was named the JA for the quarter ending June 2013 and Reinaldo Llovet was named the Court Administration employee for the same quarter.



Rebecca Ricker and Reinaldo Llovet



*Judge Jeffrey Colbath
congratulates Rebecca Ricker*



*Judge Richard Oftedal
congratulates Reinaldo Llovet*

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WELCOME:

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit welcomes the following new employees:

Rachel Belcher-Trial Court Law Clerk
Brian Brown-Computer Specialist II
Julianne Davis-Foreclosure Case Manager
Maiyury Diaz-Administrative Secretary I
Andy Dorinvil-Court Analyst, Foreclosure
Sean Fahey-Trial Court Law Clerk
Christine Gardner-Trial Court Law Clerk
Marla Jacknin-Court Analyst
Gabrielle Jackson-Trial Court Law Clerk
Nicole Karlecke-Magistrate Assistant
Conita Kuhn-Senior Secretary, Foreclosure
Juhn Maher-Foreclosure Case Manager
Jorge Maxion-Magistrate, Foreclosure
Jaqueline Meyer-Foreclosure Case Manager
Daniel Sackie-Mensah-Foreclosure Case Manager
Shamina Saemmer-Foreclosure Case Manager

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Administrative Orders amended July 1—September 30, 2013:

11.106-7/13 In Re: Alternate Assignments
11.102-7/13 In Re: Administrative Judges and Executive Committee
11.101-7/13 In Re: Assignment of Judges
11.202-7/13 Trial Division Judges
2.402-7/13 Jury Panels
11.203-08/13 In Re: Appointment of Magistrates
3.904-8/13 In Re: Chinese Manufactured Drywall Litigation
11.105-8/13 In Re: Judicial Rotation Policy
4.401- 8/13 In Re: Procedures for Arrests with Warrants For Violations of Probation
5.805 - 9/13 In Re: Truancy Court
5.603-9/13 In Re: Delinquency Drug Court
2.312- 9/13 In Re: Electronic Filing of Documents

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

10/14 Columbus Day Training
10/15-11/04 County Open Enrollment
10/21-11/08 State Open Enrollment

November

11/01 New Attorney Breakfast
11/05 Volunteer Appreciation-Main Courthouse
11/06 Volunteer Appreciation-South County Courthouse
11/22 National Adoption Day

December

12/12 Staff Holiday Luncheon

COURT HOLIDAYS

November

11/11 Veterans' Day
11/28-29 Thanksgiving

December

12/24-25 Christmas

