

# Circuit Courier

October-December 2014

Vol. 2014-4

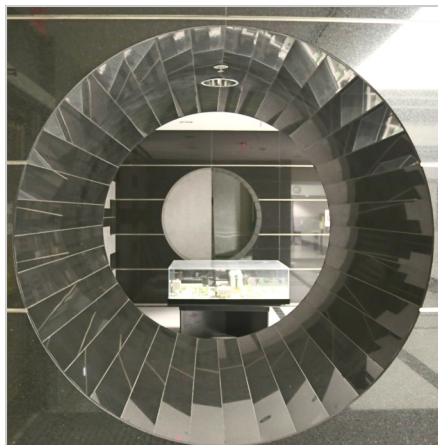
NEWS BULLETIN OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Judges Brown, Fine, Lewis, McCarthy Retire**

**Veterans' Court**

**National Adoption Day**

**Columbus Day Training**



***On the Cover: Courthouse, WPB***

*Photo by Deputy LaFlamme*

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## 2014 JUDICIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **April 22** Judge Meenu Sasser receives the Craig S. Barnhart American Inns of Court Jurist of the Year Award
- **May 15** Judge Lucy Chernow Brown receives 2014 Distinguished Jurist of the Year Award for the North County Section
- **May 31** Judge Moses Baker, Jr. receives 2014 Distinguished Jurist of the Year Award for the South County Section
- **Sept. 30** Judge Ronald Alvarez retires after 21 years on the bench
- **July 22** Judge Robin Rosenberg becomes Federal Judge
- **August 5-8** Conference of Circuit Court Judges
- **December:** Judges Lucy Brown, Edward Fine, Timothy McCarthy, Diana Lewis Retire

*Best wishes to  
Judges and staff for  
a happy and  
healthy 2015*



## JUDGE LUCY CHERNOW BROWN RETIRES

The **Hon. Lucy Chernow Brown**, Circuit Judge, retired on January 1, 2015, after serving the citizens of Palm Beach County for twenty-three years. Judge Brown, a Dobbs Ferry New York native, was elected to Circuit Court in September, 1990. Prior to her legal career, she worked as a teacher and a Probation Officer. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Rochester in 1968 and her M.A. degree from Columbia University in 1969. After obtaining her Juris Doctor from Nova University Law Center in 1982, she worked as an Assistant State Attorney and Assistant City Attorney for West Palm Beach. She also worked for three civil law firms before being elected to the Circuit Court.

During her tenure Judge Brown presided over cases in the Civil, Criminal, Family, and Probate Divisions. Most recently she was assigned to the Civil Bench. During her years as a Judge she also served on the Florida Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions, the Florida Bar Code and Rules of Evidence Committee, and as chair of the Fifteenth Circuit Pro Bono Committee.



L-r: Judge Lucy Brown, Jessica Schneider (daughter); Nathan Schneider (grandson); Mark Schneider (son-in-law); Standing in front with the sparkly shoes: Josephine Schneider (grand daughter).

Also attending: Rosa and Dan Schneider

## JUDGE EDWARD FINE RETIRES

The **Hon. Edward Fine**, Circuit Judge, retired December, 2014, after serving the citizens of Palm Beach County for thirty-six years. Judge Fine, a Pontiac, Michigan native, was elevated to Circuit bench on May 6, 1986 by Governor Bob Graham after previously serving as a Palm Beach County Court Judge. Prior to his judgeships, he served as an Assistant Public Defender and as a private practice attorney. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Vanderbilt University in 1968 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Florida College of Law in 1971.

Judge Fine served as the Chief Judge from 2001 to 2005. He was also appointed Administrative Judge of the South County Courthouse, and the Administrative Judge of Circuit Civil and Circuit Criminal. Most recently he was assigned to the Circuit Civil Division.



Marcy Fine and Judge Edward Fine

## JUDGE TIMOTHY MCCARTHY RETIRES

The **Hon. Timothy McCarthy**, Circuit Judge, retired December 1, 2014, after serving the citizens of Palm Beach County for sixteen years. Judge McCarthy, a Buffalo New York native, was appointed to the Circuit bench in 1998. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Indiana State University in 1968 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Notre Dame School of Law in 1971. He began his career as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Indiana. In 1973 he moved to Florida where he was employed as an Assistant State Attorney until 1975. Later, he moved into private practice where he handled civil cases and served as an arbitrator until his appointment to the Circuit. His most recent assignment was in the Circuit Civil Division.



Kate McCarthy and Judge Timothy McCarthy.

## JUDGE DIANA LEWIS RETIRES

The **Hon. Diana Lewis**, Circuit Judge, retired December, 2014, after serving the citizens of Palm Beach County for eleven years. Judge Lewis, a West Palm Beach native, was elected to Circuit Court in 2002. Judge Lewis obtained her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1974 and her Masters in Guidance and Counseling from Florida Atlantic University in 1976. She first worked as an Admissions Counselor at the University of Notre Dame before attending law school. She received her Juris Doctor from the University of Notre Dame Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1982. Prior to her election, she worked as a trial attorney for 20 years defending medical malpractice and product liability lawsuits.

Her tenure included serving in the Circuit Civil, Family Divisions. Most recently, she served with the Probate & Guardianship Division.



Judge Diana Lewis and retired Judge Elizabeth Maass



# JUDICIAL RETIREMENTS



L-r: Judge Glenn Kelley; retired Judge Elizabeth Maass; Judge David Crow; Judge Diana Lewis (retiring); Judge Janis Keyser; Federal Judge Robin Rosenberg; Judge Gregory Keyser; Judge Timothy McCarthy (retiring).



Judge Edward Fine (retiring) and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath



L-r: General Counsel Amy Borman; Judge Lucy Chernow Brown (retiring); husband Terry Brown; Judge Jack Cox; Judge Frank Castor.

# JUDICIAL ROTATION 2015

<u>Circuit Civil Division</u>			
<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>2014 ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>2015 ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>CHAMBERS / COURTROOM</u>
AE	Edward Fine (retired)	Jessica Ticktin	9.1208 / 9-A
AF	Janis Keyser	Edward Artau	10.1208 / 10-A
AH	Lucy Chernow Brown (retired)	Lisa Small	11.1216 / 11-C
AJ	Timothy McCarthy (retired)	Jaimie Goodman	10.2214 / 10-E
<u>Family Division</u>			
<u>Division</u>	<u>2014 Assignment</u>	<u>2015 Assignment</u>	<u>Chambers / Courtroom</u>
FD	Lisa Small	Amy Smith	6.1207 / 6-C
FJ	Amy Smith	Howard Coates, Jr.	North County / 2711
FW	Joseph Marx	**Peter Evans	Belle Glade / 1 & 2
<u>Juvenile Division</u>			
<u>Division</u>	<u>2014 Assignment</u>	<u>2015 Assignment</u>	<u>Chambers / Courtroom</u>
JM	Rosemarie Scher	Kirk Volker	2.1406 / 2-A
<u>Probate &amp; Guardianship Division</u>			
<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>2014 ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>2015 ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>CHAMBERS / COURTROOM</u>
IB / IC	*Diana Lewis (retired)	*Janis Keyser	4.2610 / 4-B
IJ	New Division	Howard Coates, Jr.	North County / 2711
<u>Circuit Criminal Division</u>			
<u>Division</u>	<u>2014 Assignment</u>	<u>2015 Assignment</u>	<u>Chambers / Courtroom</u>
U	Stephen Rapp	Jack Cox	11.2208 / 11-G
X	Sandra McSorley	Samantha Schosberg-Feuer	10.2204 / 10-H
TD	*John Kastrenakes	Stephen Rapp	11.2204 / 11-G
Y	Joseph Marx	**Peter Evans	Belle Glade / 1 & 2
<u>County Civil Division</u>			
<u>Division</u>	<u>2014 Assignment</u>	<u>2015 Assignment</u>	<u>Chambers / Courtroom</u>
RF	Frank Castor	No Change / *Admin. Judge	6.2205 / 6-L
RJ	*Sandra Bosso-Pardo	No Change / see above	6.1204 / 6-B
<u>County Criminal Division</u>			
<u>Division</u>	<u>2014 Assignment</u>	<u>2015 Assignment</u>	<u>Chambers / Courtroom</u>
M	Mark Eissey	Daliah Weiss	9.1204 / 9-B
D	Daliah Weiss	Mark Eissey	South County / 1

\* Denotes Administrative Judge

\*\* Administrative Judge at Satellite Courthouse



On October 31, 2014, the Professionalism Committee of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, in conjunction with the Judges of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, held its fourth annual New Attorney Breakfast. This program, launched in May 2012 by General Counsel Amy Borman, reaches out to newly admitted attorneys practicing in Palm Beach County to help demystify the legal practice in this Circuit and provide an overview of all that the Palm Beach County legal community has to offer.

The morning started with a breakfast attended by new attorneys, judges and members of the various voluntary bar associations in Palm Beach County.

The program began with opening remarks by Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath. A panel discussion, moderated by Amy Borman, included Judges Peter Blanc, Richard Oftedal, August Bonavita and attorneys Greg Coleman, David Prather, Alicia Kobasky and Jack Rice. The panelists provided advice to the new attorneys on how to navigate the legal practice in Palm Beach County.

Greg Coleman, President of the Florida Bar, then held a short “Town Hall” style question and answer session with the audience. This was followed by brief informational comments by Theo Kypreos, President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, Joanne O’Connor, Co-Chair of the Professionalism Committee, and Cindy Guerra, Clerk and Comptroller’s Office.



Amy Borman and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath



Judges Peter Blanc, Richard Oftedal, August Bonavita



Judges Jeffrey Gillen, Catherine Brunson, Glenn Kelley

## NEW ATTORNEY BREAKFAST:CONT.

Each of the 12 voluntary bar associations in attendance, along with the Legal Aid Society and Guardian Ad Litem, was introduced with a brief description of the organization's goals and purpose. Membership was encouraged as a means to help new attorneys with the practice of law in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Participating bar associations included:

Palm Beach County Bar Association & the Young Lawyer's Section  
South County Bar Association  
South County Florida Association of Women Lawyers  
Palm Beach County Association of Women Lawyers  
Hispanic Bar Association  
Palm Beach Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
Florida Justice Association  
Federal Bar Association  
Catholic Lawyer's Guild  
Craig S. Barnard American Inn of Court  
Susan Greenberg Family Law Inn of Court  
American Board of Trial Advocates  
F. Malcolm Cunningham Bar Association

The morning concluded with a tour of the Main Courthouse and the Clerk's Office. Additional resources are also available for new attorneys.

The New Attorney Learning Series coordinated by the 15th Judicial Circuit and the Professionalism Committee, continues with four free seminars at the Palm Beach County Bar Association. The seminars are: Differences Between Local Rules, Administrative Orders and Divisional Instructions; How to Draft Motions, Notices of Hearings, and Proposed Orders; the Art of Uniform Motion Calendar; and Civility - Making Sure You Keep Your Cool Under Pressure. To register for these free seminars go to [www.palmbeachbar.org](http://www.palmbeachbar.org).



Judge Timothy McCarthy (center) amuses a packed room of Judges, Lawyers and new attorneys



# NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

Adoptive families, adoption supporters, government officials, volunteers, and child advocates joined to celebrate National Adoption Day in Palm Beach County on Friday, November 21, 2014. More than 25 children in foster care were adopted into permanent loving families. This annual fun filled day featured a delicious lunch, clowns, face painting, balloon creations, caricaturists, and a magic show followed by an awards ceremony, and keynote speakers.

Opening ceremonies included a warm welcome from **Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath** and comments from guest speakers, Larry Rein, Executive Director of ChildNet Palm Beach and Senator Jeff Clemens. Additionally, Jim Sackett presented the annual Jim Sackett Adoption Advocate Award to retired Judge Ronald Alvarez. Judge Alvarez, who recently retired after twenty-one years of service, spent the majority of his time on the bench in the Juvenile Division where his passion was helping the youth that appeared before him. At the end of the ceremony the Juvenile Judges finalized several adoptions for joyous parents and children.

The event was hosted by Court Administration and coordinated by community representatives from the following agencies: Children's Home Society, ChildNet, Inc., Department of Children and Families, Place of Hope, Guardian ad Litem Program, Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, and Palm Beach County Bar Association.

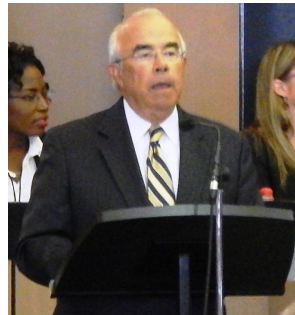
A very special thank you for participating goes to: **Judge Moses Baker Jr., Judge James Martz, Judge Rosemarie Scher, and Magistrate Judette Fanelli.**



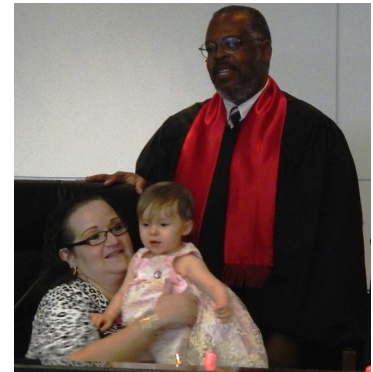
L-r: Judge Moses Baker, Jr., Judge Rosemarie Scher, Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath, Judge James Martz, Magistrate Judette Fanelli .



L-r: Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath, Magistrate Judette Fanelli, Retired Judge Ronald Alvarez, Judge James Martz, Judge Rosemarie Scher, Judge Moses Baker, Jr.



Jim Sackett



Judge Moses Baker, Jr.



Senator Jeff Clemens



Judge James Martz



### In Court Processing Pilot Program

Initially, three Judges agreed to pilot the Clerk's In Court Processing Program (ICP): Judges Damico, Kelley, and Bonavita. The pilot allows the clerk staff to test their new ICP system. The courtroom clerks will input court information, live from the courtroom, immediately into the clerk's computer system, "Showcase." This will allow for the docket to be updated immediately instead of having to wait for a docket clerk to input the data after the court event. ICP will only be implemented in the criminal courts. In addition to the three pilot judges, ICP has been expanded and is now up and running in the courtrooms of Judge Kastrenakes, Judge Miller, Judge Feuer, Judge Bryson, Judge Hanser, and Judge Weiss.



L-r: clerk Eric Centeno, Judge Bonavita.



L-r: Cici Ford; Lashawn Turner; Eric Centeno; Judge Paul Damico; clerks Lisa Supan, Liana Figueroa, Erika Hlywiak.

### Veterans' Court Stand Down Event

On Saturday, September 27, 2014 the team of Veterans' Court participated in the Stand Down event, which is a community outreach program designed to link Veterans to services available in the local community. During this event, Judge Booras conducted Court and presided over several cases. The event was well attended and many of the volunteer mentors were available to assist Veterans with various needs.



Judge Ted Booras (kneeling third from right) with members from the Veterans' Court Team at the Stand Down Event.



### Welcome Magistrate Jean-Adel Williams

Ms. Jean-Adel Williams was selected as a Magistrate for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit and began her duties on November 10, 2014. She brings to the position extensive experience as an attorney in the West Palm Beach area. She is a double Gator, having received her Bachelor of Arts and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida.

Most recently, Ms. Williams has been employed as an Assistant State Attorney, representing the State in Baker Act proceedings. Prior to that she was employed by the Palm Beach County Clerk and Comptroller's office. While with the Clerk's office, she managed the operations of the Family, Domestic Violence, County Civil, and Self Service Division. Ms. Williams also gained extensive family experience during her ten years of service with the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County.

Ms. Williams presides over Department of Revenue Hearings.



Magistrate Jean-Adel Williams, sworn in to office by Judge Peter Blanc on December 15, 2014.



Magistrate Jean-Adel Williams thanks the audience at her swearing in ceremony.

### Judicial Meet and Greet

On October 30, 2014, **Judges Laura Johnson** and **Daliah Weiss** were the guest speakers at a Judicial Meet and Greet hosted by the Palm Beach Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (PBACDL).



L-r: Judge Daliah Weiss; Scott Berry, President PBACDL; Judge Laura Johnson.

### Process Server Training

Annual certification and renewal training was held for more than 300 Certified Process Servers in the Circuit. General Counsel, Amy Borman, led the recertification training, informing the process servers on legislation changes and case law updates. Process Servers serve non enforceable initial process within the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

For more information on Certified Process Servers go to:

[www.15thcircuit.com/processservers](http://www.15thcircuit.com/processservers).



Amy Borman leads the recertification training for process servers.



# COLUMBUS DAY TRAINING

The Fifth Annual Columbus Day in-house training for court staff was held on October 13, 2014. Trial Court Administrator, Barbara Dawicke, assembled a variety of training sessions designed to help staff improve their skills in an enjoyable and relaxed atmosphere.

**Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath** welcomed the Columbus Day attendees and thanked everyone for their continued service for the good of the Circuit and the citizens of Palm Beach County. Immediately following Judge Colbath, the Plenary speaker, Honorable Gill Freeman spoke on Perceptions of Fairness in the Judicial Branch of Florida.

After the Plenary, attendees separated out into training sessions that addressed improving work skills, to improving one's health, such as "Staying Fit, Healthy, and Happy" with Daniel Hartwell, to informational sessions such as researching one's genealogy as presented by Larry Vick.

Other courses included: Tips and Tricks for Apple Products with Mary Stull; Yoga with Priyanka Shanbag; Amazing Race with Melissa Sotillo; Estate Planning and Florida Retirement System with Christie Petrosi; Personal Safety and Identity Theft with Kevin Gilpin; Relaxation and Meditation with David Cronin; Digital Photography with Mary Stull and Couponing with Tricia Cesarone.

Columbus Day training in 2015 will held on Monday, October 12.



Trial Court Administrator Barbara Dawicke introduces the plenary speaker Honorable Gill Freeman



Genealogy with Larry Vick.



Personal safety and identity theft with Kevin Gilpin.



## COLUMBUS DAY TRAINING: (CONT.)



Staying fit, healthy and happy with Daniel Hartwell.



Yoga with Priyanka Shanbag.



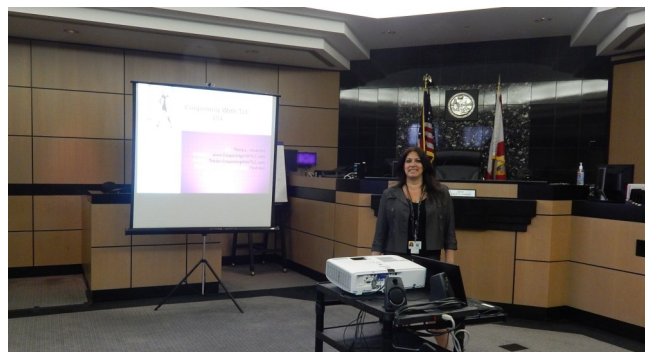
Court staff participate in "The Amazing Race" with Melissa Sotillo.



Personal Safety and Identity Theft with Kevin Gilpin.



FRS Training with Christie Petrosi



Couponing with Tricia Cesarone



Court staff enjoy breakfast



## AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### Excellence Awards

Congratulations to those persons nominated for the Judicial Assistant of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2014: **Nicolette Anderson, Brenda Gleason, Joli Katz, Marie Murphy, Debra Rosenblatt, Roberta Rubin, Amy Tracy, Sabrina Valdez, and Jessica Wolfkill.**

Congratulations, also, to those persons nominated for the Court Administration employee of the third quarter of 2014: **Jakobie Alexander, Natasha Harris and Shilah James.**

On November 6, a ceremony was held to announce the winners for the third quarter of 2014. **Jessica Wolfkill**, Judicial Assistant to Judge Caroline Shepherd was named Judicial Assistant of the quarter ending September 2014. **Jakobie Alexander** was named as the Court Employee of the quarter for the same quarter. The winning Judicial Assistant and Court Staff person received a plaque, a paid Administrative leave day, a photo in the newsletter, and four weeks of parking in the Judicial parking garage.



Jessica Wolfkill and Judge Oftedal



Jakobie Alexander and Judge Oftedal

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### Thanks For Giving

For the third year in a row, the Circuit's Court staff and Judicial Assistants collected canned goods and boxed foods for the "Thanksgiving Food Drive," sponsored by Channel 5 News.

In appreciation of the Court staff's contributions to the food drive, Barbara Dawicke and all of the Circuit Directors hosted a "Thanks for Giving" pie and dessert event. The Court Administrator and Directors donated desserts to the event and served the Judicial Assistants and staff as an expression of the Circuit's gratitude for their generosity.



l-r: Court Administration pie servers: Barbara Dawicke; Rhoda Jones; Michelle Spangenberg; Devon Mugridge; Noel Chessman



### Holiday Luncheon

On December 18, Court Administration hosted the Holiday Luncheon at the Main Courthouse. The event was catered by Comfort Cuisine. Over fifty employees were in attendance. During this event employees were able to enjoy music, and win door prizes. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this an eventful and memorable occasion.



L-r: Roody Barthelemy; Myrthel Ortiz; Rosa Amaral; Irene Nocera; Angie Duggan



Court Administrator presents door prizes

### South County Holiday Luncheon

The holiday luncheon for South County was held on December 12.



Angela Afanador and Kim Massengill



Gloria Lozano and Hans Belizaire



Left: Back to front - Judge French (hidden); Deputy Scott Garner; Magistrate Peter Bassaline

Right: Back to front—Tricia Cesarone; Sharon Royal; Magistrate Maxine Williams; Deputy McClinton (hidden); Breanne Perry



## SCENES OF THE SEASON

### North County Holiday Luncheon

North County held their Holiday Pot Luck luncheon on December 16, 2014.



L-r: Nicole Karlecke; Laura LaVoie; Stephanie King  
In background: Deputy Cory Blackwell and Danni Hoefling



L-r: Amy Tracy; Angela Claud; Deputy Dawn Amoroso; Erin Borden; Andrea Morris;  
Judge Amy Smith

### Law Librarian Linda Sims Retires

Linda Sims provided thirty dedicated years of service to the citizens of Palm Beach County in her role as Law Librarian. Linda was always pleasant and helpful to everyone who walked through the Library doors. On those occasions when she had challenging patrons, she addressed the situation with a smile, a soft British accent, and a calm temperament. Under her Supervision, the Law Library established an attorney room, expanded the services available to attorneys and the public, and started the shift from hard copy books to electronic resources. The Circuit will miss Linda and wish her a very happy retirement. When asked what she was most looking forward to, she stated without hesitation, “No more Courier newsletters!”



Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath; Linda Sims; Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Jorge Labarga.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Administrative Orders amended October 1-December 31, 2014:

A.O. 2.105-11/14\* - In Re: Fifteenth Circuit Professionalism Panel

A.O. 2.301-11/14\* - In Re: Paper Court Files

A.O. 2.312-11/14\* - In Re: Electronic Filing Of Documents

A.O. 3.106-11/14- In Re: Correcting Scrivener's Errors in Circuit and County Civil Cases

A.O. 3.308-11/14\* - In Re: Case Management of Residential Foreclosure Cases and Mandatory Mediation Referral

A.O. 3.602-11/14\* - In Re: Residential Eviction Summons

A.O. 3.607-11/14 - In Re: Emergency Hearings in County Civil Matters

A.O. 4.101-11/14\* - In Re: Administrative Procedures in the Criminal Division

A.O. 5.806-11/14 - In Re: Emergency Motions and Requests for Emergency Hearings in Juvenile Matters

A.O. 6.104-11/14 - In Re: Emergency Hearings in Probate and Guardianship Matters

A.O. 11.101-12/14\* - In Re: Assignment of Judges

A.O. 6.105-12/14 - In Re: Establishment of North County Probate/Guardianship Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division "IJ"

A.O. 11.109-12/14\* - In Re: Duty Judge Roster

A.O. 11.502-12/14\* - In Re: Flower Fund

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>.

## WELCOME TO THE CIRCUIT

### New Hires:

Tammy Anton	Chief of Personnel Service
Sue Ling Curtis	Administrative Assistant II to the TCA
Angelica-Maria Duggan	Court Interpreter
Muriel Germeil	Court Interpreter
Nicole Kish	Court Reporter II
Kimberly Mayorga	Circuit Court Judicial Assistant
Johnna Hochella	Circuit Court Judicial Assistant
Lucille Kilgallon	Circuit Court Judicial Assistant
Sara Beres	Court Program Specialist II
Brittany Jenkins	Court Program Specialist II
Dawn Augustine	Digital Court Reporter
Jean Adel-Williams	Magistrate
Joshua Dockus	Trial Court law Clerk

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March

27 Annual Bench-Bar Conference

## UPCOMING COURT HOLIDAYS

Friday, April 3 — Good Friday, Court closed



Judicial Assistant Jeri Fickes West enjoying the holiday festivities.

