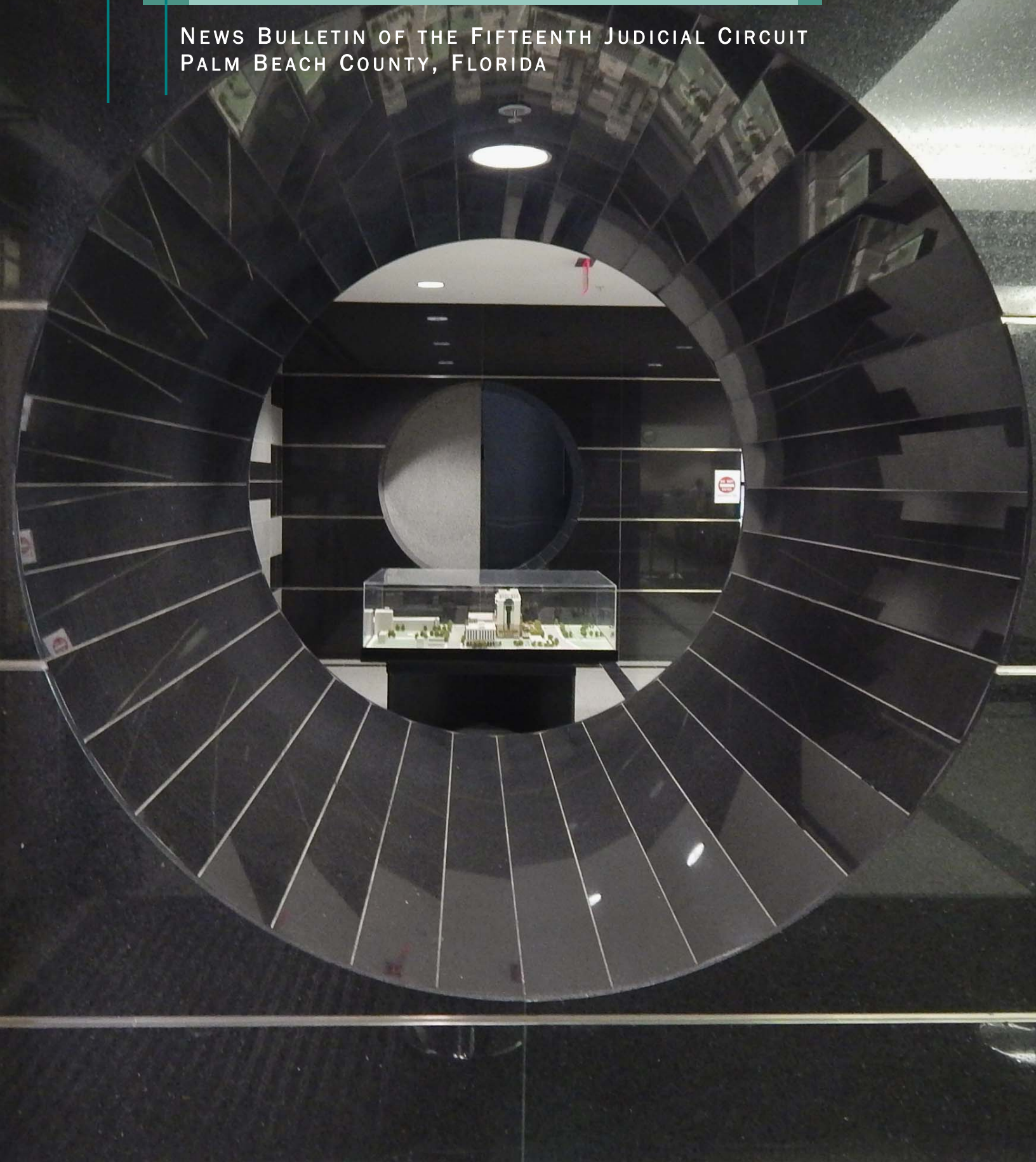


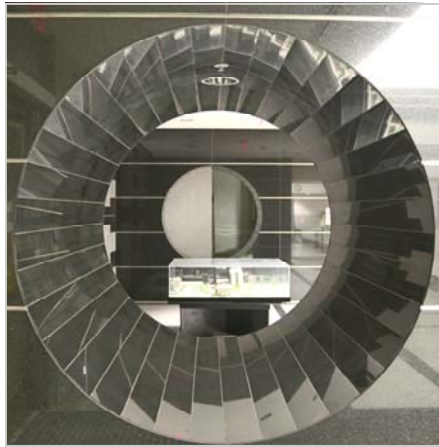
Circuit Courier

October-December 2015

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





On the Cover: Courthouse, WPB

Photo by Deputy LaFlamme

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2015 JUDICIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **March 31:** Judge David F. Crow Retires
- **April 30:** Judge Steven Rapp Retires
- **January 5:** Judge Sandra McSorley Retires
- **June 25:** Judge John L. Phillips receives a Justice Teaching Award
- **August 2-5:** Conference of Circuit Court Judges
- **May 2015:** 15th Circuit Court receives a \$150,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation

*Best wishes to
Judges and staff for
a happy and
healthy 2016.*

INVESTITURE OF JUDGE DINA A. KEEVER

Judge Dina A. Keever was appointed to the Circuit Court by Governor Rick Scott on June 18, 2015, filling a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge David F. Crow.

Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Keever practiced with McCabe Rabin, P.A. Previously, she worked with Lewis Tein, P.L., from 2009-2012; was a sole practitioner; served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; and the Southern District of Florida. She received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Illinois and her Juris Doctor from Florida State University.

Judge Keever's first assignment is in Criminal Felony Division "V" at the Main Judicial Complex. Her Judicial Assistant is Kelly Squire. The office can be reached at 561-355-2956.

Family, colleagues, and friends gathered in ceremonial courtroom 11H of the Palm Beach County Main Judicial Center on October 23, 2015, for the investiture of Judge Dina A. Keever as a Circuit Judge for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

Following the invocation from Father Art Venezia, Ivan Keever led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath welcomed the group and acknowledged the Judicial Nominating Committee.

Judge Samantha Schosberg-Feuer presented a desk plate on behalf of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges. A Bible was presented by Gary S. Lessser, Esq., representing the Florida Bar Board of Governors.



Judge Dina Keever and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath

Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath administered the Oath of Office assisted by Jerry Keever. The honor of enrobing Judge Keever went to Dr. Mark Agrama, and Michael and Gabriel Agrama.

Several traditional and ceremonial gifts were presented to Judge Keever: the gavel was presented by J. Grier Pressly III, Esq., President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association; followed by other gifts presented by Mark R. Osherow, Esq., President of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association; Gregory T. Zele, Esq., President of Palm Beach County Justice Association, John Lurvey, Esq., President of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Adam T. Rabin, Esq., and McCabe Rabin, P.A.

Following remarks by Judge Meenu T. Sasser, Guy Lewis, Esq., Lewis Tein, P.L., Ryon McCabe, Esq., and McCabe Rabin, P.A., Judge Keever thanked her family and members of the Judiciary who were present.

The ceremony concluded with the benediction from Tom Derita.

VETERANS' COURT GRADUATION

On November 9, 2015, Veterans' Court celebrated its Fifth Year Anniversary. The ceremony began with a Color Guard performed by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. Judge Booras then welcomed attendees, and Chief Judge Colbath acknowledged the dignitaries who were present.

The keynote speaker was Congressman Alcee Hastings, who represents twenty Districts of Florida, including parts of Broward, Palm Beach, and Hendry Counties. Congressman Hastings commended the efforts of Chief Judge Colbath and Judge Booras for their continued commitment to the Court. He also recognized the volunteer mentors for the outstanding service they provide to the Veterans.

Veterans' Court is a specialized court offering progressive sanctions with an emphasis on rehabilitation and treatment for Veterans involved in the Criminal Justice System. Veterans' Court provides an alternative to incarceration, links to social services, mental health counseling and treatment, substance abuse counseling and treatment, on-going judicial supervision & interaction, and a volunteer mentors.



L-r: State Attorney Dave Aronberg, Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath, Representative Alcee Hastings, Clerk Sharon Bock, and Judge Ted Booras.



DRUG COURT GRADUATION

At a graduation ceremony on December 2, 2015, Judge Rosemarie Scher honored a graduate who successfully completed the requirements of the Delinquency Drug Court Program.

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



Judge Rosemarie Scher and program graduate.

MEDIATION TRAINING

The ADR Office presented a continuing education training entitled: “Understanding High Conflict Behavior” for the Volunteer, County, Family, and Dependency mediators of the Fifteenth Circuit. Susan Jacobson and Carole Miller discussed ways to identify and handle high conflict behavior. Susan Jacobson is a Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator and has taught the mandated Parent Education and Family Stabilization classes for 25 years in the 15th and 17th Judicial Circuits. Carole Miller is the owner of CCM Partnerships, Inc., coordinator of Parenting & Divorce, and has taught the mandated Parent Education and Family Stabilization classes for 25 years in the 11th, 15th, and 17th Judicial Circuits.



L to r: Walter Colbath III, Susan Jacobson, ADR Director Bill Moreno, and Carole Miller.



Volunteer, County, Family, and Dependency Mediators listen to the presentation.

JUDGE MEENU SASSER RECOGNIZED

Judge Meenu Sasser Best in Survey Ranking Palm Beach Judges

The Palm Beach County Bar Association has conducted judicial assessments via an anonymous attorney survey since 1964. The intent of the annual survey is to provide the public with information on the judiciary as reported by an anonymous survey of attorneys practicing in Palm Beach County. According to the survey, Circuit Judge Meenu Sasser is one of the most highly regarded Judges in the Circuit. She gained high ratings for judicial demeanor, courtesy to attorneys, punctuality on rulings, case management, use of practical consideration in decision-making, and enforcement of professional standards.



Judge Meenu Sasser

Judge Sasser is Florida’s first Indian American Judge. She was appointed to Bench in 2009 by Governor Charlie Crist. In addition to her duties on the Circuit Civil Bench, Judge Sasser is the Associate Dean of the Florida Judicial College.

NEW ATTORNEY BREAKFAST

On October 30, 2015, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, in conjunction with the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Professionalism Committee, held its fifth annual New Attorney Breakfast. This exciting 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, John Phillips and attorneys Peter Hunt, Jack Rice, Alicia Kobasky, David Prather, Kai Li Fouts, and Greg Coleman. The panelists provided advice to the new attorneys on how to navigate the legal practice in Palm Beach County.

After the formal program, the new attorneys met with over twelve local bar associations and then toured the courthouse and clerk's office. The next New Attorney Breakfast is planned for the Fall 2017.



Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath addresses the new attorneys.



Judge Jaimie Goodman views the booths at the New Attorney Breakfast event.



New Attorney Breakfast Participants

NEW ATTORNEY BREAKFAST:CONTINUED

Each of the twelve 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

For more information or resources for new attorneys, please visit: www.palmbeachbar.org



NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

Adoptive families, adoption supporters, government officials, volunteers, and child advocates joined to celebrate National Adoption Day in Palm Beach County on November 20, 2015. More than twenty 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 keynote speakers Bertie Duvelsaint, Larry Rein, and Liz Quirantes. Additionally, Jim Sackett presented the annual Jim Sackett Adoption Advocate Award to Bertie Duvelsaint, a former foster care youth who has since adopted a child from the foster care system. 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, Friends of Foster Care, Guardian ad Litem Program, Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, and Palm Beach County Bar Association.

A special thank you to the following Juvenile Judges for finalizing the adoptions of these forever now families: Judge Moses Baker Jr., Judge Kathleen Kroll, Judge James Martz, Judge Rosemarie Scher, and Judge Kirk Volker.



Judge James Martz and Adoption Day participants.



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

CARING CANINES TRIBUTE TO ORLA

Caring Canines was implemented in January 2012 as a pilot program with a single volunteer, the handler Susan, and her lovable therapy dog, Orla. The mission of Caring Canines is to offer court involved children, faced with challenging family circumstances, an opportunity to actively participate in the case and interact with their family in a friendly and more relaxed environment created through the use of therapy dogs.

On December 23, 2015, Orla left us with grace and love, just shy of thirteen years old. She enjoyed visiting the children at the courthouse. Orla's daughter, Bella, is participating in therapy dog training to hopefully follow in her mother's paw prints.

Four years after its inception, Caring Canines now has over twenty dogs and handler teams. This program can easily be recognized as one of the greatest accomplishments in the Juvenile Division.



Orla

Caring Canines: Holiday Extravaganza!

On December 16, 2015, the Circuit's therapy dog program, Caring Canines, celebrated the season with a holiday event for the dedicated volunteer dog and handler teams. Festivities kicked off with a welcome and acknowledgements from Magistrate Judette Fanelli and special comments from Elaine Alvarez, and Program Champion Judge Ronald Alvarez.

As a token of appreciation, volunteers were given special gifts and awards for the various types of services they offer to this unique program.



Members of Caring Canines.

Magistrate Judette Fanelli and one of the dogs from Caring Canines.



County Leaders taking bold step in examining jail problems.

In July 2015, Palm Beach County was one of the twenty jurisdictions, nationwide, awarded a MacArthur Foundation technical grant of \$150,000. The funds have supported the work of consultants who have collaborated with the Palm Beach County criminal justice partners with the goal of evaluating the processes related to incarceration in Palm Beach County, including housing of mentally ill and the demographics of the jail population. Chief Judge, Jeffrey Colbath, who attended the Safety and Justice Challenge Conference in Washington, D.C., to accept the grant on behalf of Palm Beach County, has spearheaded the efforts of the group.

For the past six months, numerous subcommittees have collected and analyzed specific data sets in an effort to better understand the processes leading to incarceration and methods to reduce jail populations. In January 2016, the Palm Beach County group will submit an action plan with the hope of obtaining funding for the second phase of the grant. Funding for the second phase ranges from \$500,000 to \$2 million a year over a five year period.



L to r: State Attorney Dave Aronberg, Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath, West Palm Beach Chief Bryan Kummerlen, and Public Defender Carey Haughwout.

Trial Court Law Clerk Program: James Bodden

In October 2015, James Bodden joined the Circuit as a Law Clerk. James graduated from the University of South Florida in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Sciences and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. He then attended Florida State University College of Law where he served as the Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law*. He was also a staff member of the *Journal of Transnational Law and Policy*. James received the book award for receiving the highest grade in the Post-Conviction Remedies class.

During law school, James worked as a legal extern for the Innocence Project of Florida where he worked on motions for post conviction relief. During the summers, James worked for the Public Defender's offices in Leon County and Hillsborough Counties.



James Bodden

Muslim Bar Lunch & Learn

On October 29, 2015, the Muslim Bar Association, along with Eleventh Circuit Judge Scott Bernstein presented, “Cultural Awareness and the Florida Legal System” to members of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Judges, Magistrates, and Court staff. The event was co-sponsored by a Florida Bar Foundation diversity grant.



Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath and 11th Circuit Judge Scott Bernstein.

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 re-certification training, informing the process servers on legislation changes and case law updates. Process Servers serve as non enforceable initial process within the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

For more information on Certified Process Servers go to:
www.15thcircuit.com/processservers.



Amy Borman leads the re-certification training for process servers.

COLUMBUS DAY TRAINING

The Fifth Annual Columbus Day in-house training for court staff was held on October 12, 2015. 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 the Chief Judge, the Plenary speaker, Ms. Lurene Van Ness spoke on change in the workplace.

After the Plenary, attendees separated out into various training sessions that addressed topics such as improving work skills, to improving one's health, such as "Staying Fit, Healthy, and Happy" with Josh Werner. Senior Judge Nelson Bailey provided an informative session on Florida's history.

Other courses included: "Common Grammar Errors" with Professor Roberta Proctor, "Effective Communication" with Nicole Gasparri, "E-Mail and Other Written Electronic Communication" with Amy Borman, FRS Workshop: Estate Planning with Diane Spearin, "ICMS" with Shilpa Proddutoor, "Office Feng Shui" with Melissa Applegate, "Personal Safety and Identity Theft" with Kevin Gilpin, and FRS Workshop: Cash and Debt Management with Diane Spearin.

Columbus Day training in 2016 will held on October 10, 2016



Staying Healthy: Fitness and Nutrition with Josh Werner.



New ICMS with Shilpa Proddutoor



Personal Safety and Identity Theft with Kevin Gilpin.

COLUMBUS DAY TRAINING: (CONT.)



Senior Judge Nelson Bailey



Court Staff enjoying breakfast.



Chief Deputy Court Administrator Mary Quinlan and Plenary Speaker Lori Van Ness



Court Staff enjoying breakfast.



Stephanie Patty sings during breakfast.



Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath addresses the Columbus Day attendees.

Excellence Awards

Congratulations to those persons nominated for the Judicial Assistant Recognition Award for the third quarter of 2015: Erin Borden, Diana Grant, Stephanie King, Gloria Lozano, Kimberly Mayorga, and Lorainne Pratt.

Congratulations, also, to those persons nominated for the Court Administration employee of the third quarter of 2015: Shane Hussey, Reinaldo Llovet, Madhavi Menon, Breanne Perry, Kathy Sanchez, and LaPorcia Wagner.

On November 10, 2015 a ceremony was held to announce the winners for the third quarter of 2015. Diana Grant, Judicial Assistant to Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath was named Judicial Assistant of the quarter ending September 2015. Madhavi Menon was named as the Court Employee of the 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.



Madhavi Menon and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath



Congratulations to Madhavi Menon and Diane Grant

Thanks For Giving

For the fourth 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 Bill Brooks Food for Families.

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 event. They donated pies 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: Debra Oats, Barbara Dawicke, Michelle Spangenberg, Tara Kranz, Mary Quinlan, Rhoda Jones, Tammy Anton, Bill Moreno, Devon Mugridge, Cristy Altaro, and Melissa Sotillo.

SCENES OF THE SEASON



Judicial Assistants enjoying the holiday party.



Judicial Assistant Joli Katz shows off her holiday spirit.



L to r: Sherry Riggio, Omar Rodriguez, and Joli Katz.



L to r: Omar Rodriguez and Diana Grant



PBSO Officers enjoying the holiday party.

Administrative Orders amended October 1-December 31, 2015:

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 4.908-10/15- IN RE: PILOT PROJECT REGARDING JAIL TRANSPORTS FOR STATUS

A.O. 11.101 - IN RE: ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES

A.O. 11.109-11/15* - IN RE: DUTY JUDGE ROSTER

A.O. 3.102 - 11/15* - IN RE: CASE DISTRIBUTION COUNTY CIVIL

A.O. 4.908-11/15* - IN RE: PILOT PROJECT REGARDING JAIL TRANSPORTS FOR STATUS CHECKS

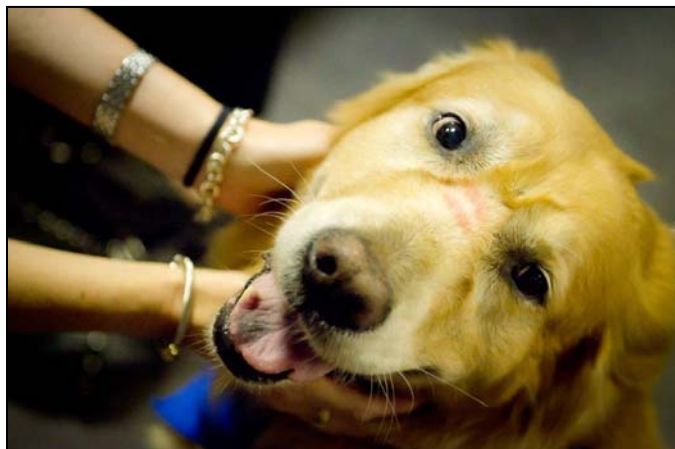
A.O.3.102 - 11/15 - IN RE: CASE DISTRIBUTION COUNTY CIVIL

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

<http://15thcircuit.co.palm-beach.fl.us/web/guest/ao>.

New Hires from October to December 2015:

Susan Catucci	Court Reporter
Brittney Finley	Receptionist
Stuart Hartstone	Senior Trial Law Clerk
Martha Lashbrook	Mediator
Naomi Rodriguez	Digital Court Reporter
James Bodden	Trial Court Law Clerk
Diane Kahn	Probate Court Case Manager
Kayla Harris	Digital Court Reporter
Tara Gledhill	Digital Court Reporter
Daniel Svec	Juvenile Court Case Manager
Camille Doran	Judicial Assistant
Astride Limouzin	Magistrate Assistant



Judge Rosemarie Scher swears in new Guardian ad Litem volunteers.

