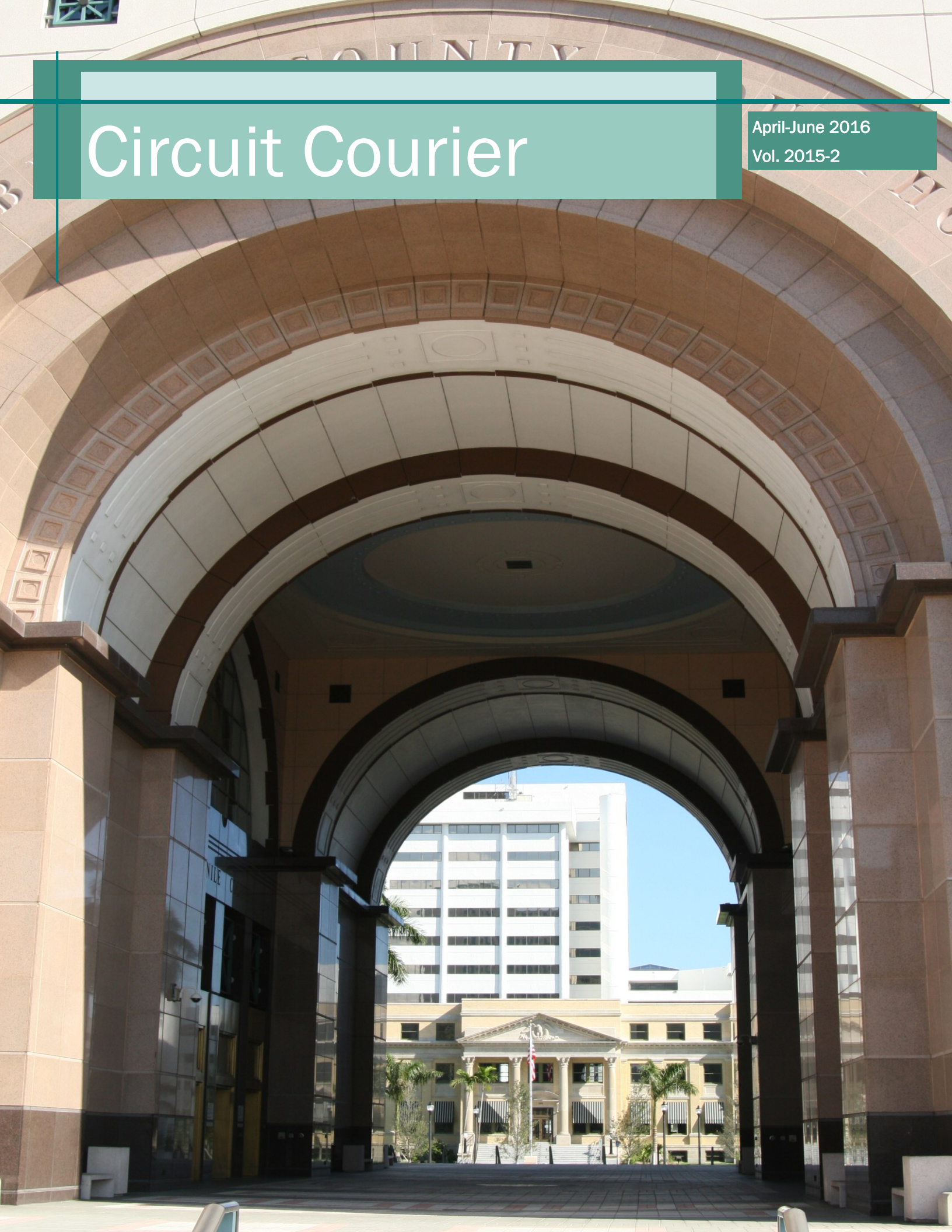


Circuit Courier

April-June 2016
Vol. 2015-2





Cover Photo:
Deputy
LaFlamme

Side Photo by:
Deputy
LaFlamme

The Honorable Barry M. Cohen, County Judge, retired June 30, 2016, after serving the citizens of Palm Beach County for twenty-five years. Prior to his appointment to the County bench, while in law school, Judge Cohen worked in the Dade County Prosecutor's Office for two and one half years.

After graduating from the University of Miami School of Law, Judge Cohen worked for the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office in 1971 before moving to the Public Defender's office in 1978. After his work with the PD, Judge Cohen opened a private law office and ran the office of the Public Defender. In 1991, Governor Bob Martinez appointed Judge Cohen to the County Bench where he served with distinction. He will be missed by his colleagues and staff.

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Judge Barry M. Cohen



Left to r: Judge Sandra Bosso-Pardo, Judge Barry Cohen, and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath.

HONORABLE JUDGE BARRY M. COHEN RETIREMENT PARTY



Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath congratulates Judge Cohen on his years of service.



Judicial Assistant Dawn McClelland and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath.



The Hon. Barry Cohen arrives at his surprise retirement party.



Judge Sandra Bosso-Pardo speaks at Judge Barry Cohen's retirement party.



Cake by Clara Glover.

OPERATION FRESH START

On Saturday, April 30, 2016, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit held its first "Operation Fresh Start." Operation Fresh Start is a Circuit initiative aimed at providing an opportunity for misdemeanor defendants to resolve their outstanding warrants and thus avoid jail time. At the May 2016 event, the Judges who volunteered to serve at the event were able to resolve many of the cases. Over 400 defendants appeared for the event. For those defendants who qualified, the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles was on-site to reinstate Driver's licenses.



Circuit employees who assisted with Operation Fresh Start.

Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath expressed his appreciation to the Judges who took time out of their weekend to serve and preside over the Operation Fresh Start dockets at the Gun Club facility and the South County Courthouse: the Hon. John Kastrenakes, the Hon. Laura Johnson, and the Hon. Ted Booras. The Chief also expressed his thanks to the Court staff, State Attorneys, Public Defenders, Clerks, and Palm Beach County Sheriff Officers who helped make the event a success including court staff Michelle Spangenberg, Director of Case Management, Stewart Saalfield, Parin Shah, Lynn Anzalone, Gary Miller, Roddy Barthelmy, and PBSO Officers Cpt. Edward Jablonski, and Sgt. Alexander Perez.



L to r: Public Defender Carey Haughwout, State Attorney Dave Aronberg, Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath, and Clerk & Comptroller Sharon Bock.

OPERATION FRESH START

LAW WEEK AT THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

In May 2016, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit participated in the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Law Week. Ms. Tammy Anton, Chief of Personnel Services, assisted with the organization of the event. As part of the program, the Circuit hosted "Shadow a Judge." This program allows high school students an opportunity to interact with the court system and individuals within the legal field. This year's participants were from Grandview Preparatory, American Heritage, and Inlet Grove High Schools. The 2016 Law Week theme was "Miranda: More Than Words."

Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath welcomed the student attendees and introduced them to the Florida State Court System. Panel discussions were held with Circuit Judge Meenu Sasser, County Judge Ted Booras, and Magistrate Sara Alijewicz. Also sitting on the panel was attorney Susan Scarborough.

Each day concluded with a demonstration from the K-9 unit of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.



L to r: Magistrate Sara Alijewicz and Judge Ted Booras speak to the students.



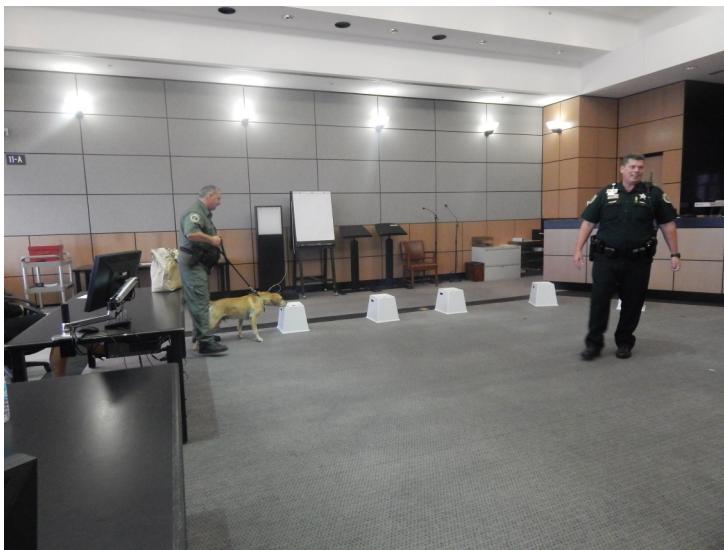
L to r: Magistrate Sara Alijewicz, Judge Meenu Sasser, and Judge Ted Booras on the panel during the lunch discussion.



Students listen to the panel discussion.



Palm Beach County Sheriff's Officer demonstrates how inmates are held in handcuffs during a trial.



K-9 unit demonstration with Palm Beach County Sheriff's Officers.



Students experience the holding cell.



K-9 unit demonstration with Palm Beach County Sheriff's Officer and Dutch.

Unified Family Court (UFC) Refresher

The Juvenile and Family Judges, along with the Family Magistrates, Judicial Assistants, Magistrate Assistants, and Court Administration staff gathered for the UFC "refresher." At the June 13 event, Administrative Juvenile Judge, Kathleen Kroll, provided a historical perspective of the UFC in the Fifteenth Circuit. She led the group through discussions on the UFC procedures, practices, and changes in the future. Court Administration Directors, Mary Quinlan, Tara Kranz, and Cristy Altaro discussed case management functions and the ICMS functionality as it relates to UFC cases.



Judge Kathleen Kroll addresses the UFC attendees.

Veterans' Court Rock 'n Roll Event

On May 22, 2016, Veterans' Court participated in the 17th annual Rock 'n Roll event held at the American German Club. This annual event offers veterans information on available resources in the local community. The Veterans' Court team was on-site to assist veterans involved with the Criminal Justice System.



L to r: Michael Colman, Steve Bendict, Joanna Nunez, Jana Shiffert, Unknown Female, Judge Ted Booras, and Luis Kurtz.

FAREWELL LUNCHEON

Judge Barry Cohen & Judicial Assistant Dawn McClelland Farewell Luncheon

On June 24, 2016, the Palm Beach County Judicial Assistants Association (PBCJAA), along with colleagues and friends, hosted a surprise farewell luncheon in honor of Judge Barry Cohen and his Judicial Assistant Dawn McClelland. Judge Cohen and Dawn McClelland retired from the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit on June 30, 2016 after twenty-five years of dedicated service.

Many people attended the surprise luncheon, including friends and family. Judge Cohen and Dawn were presented with retirement gifts. Everyone enjoyed the gathering and the delicious food.

PBCJAA would like to wish Judge Cohen and Dawn McClelland the best in their retirement.



Judge Barry M. Cohen and his
Judicial Assistant Dawn McClelland



L to r: Sherry Riggio, Dawn McClelland, Johanna Hochella,
Judge Paul Moyle, and Carla Glover



Judge Barry Cohen and Dawn McClelland receive a fond
farewell.

Lunch-n-Learn: Genealogy

Jayne Bosio of the Palm Beach County Library System presented “Our Family Services” to the Lunch-n-Learn attendees on April 12, 2016. Ms. Bosio explained the different ways to begin discovering, preserving, and sharing family history. In addition, she gave the group an ancestral chart and demonstrated how to pursue the search of one’s ancestry with the use of resources available through the Palm Beach County Library System.



Jayne Bosio addresses Lunch-n-Learn attendees.

Annual Drug Court Conference 2016

In June 2016, The National Association of Drug Court Professionals hosted their annual training conference at the Anaheim Convention Center in California. The event is the world’s largest conference on addiction, mental health, recovery, and criminal justice reform. The conference offered various training sessions for judges, court staff, providers, and case managers in adult, juvenile, family, tribal, DWI, and Veterans’ courts across the United States. The national conference offered three and a half days of workshops, plenary sessions, and featured speakers.

This year, the Circuit attendees included Sheree Carter from Adult Drug Court, Judge Rosemarie Scher and Cristy Altaro from Delinquency Drug Court, and Judge Kathleen Kroll and Lisa Bozzone from Family Drug Court.



Caring Canines Chat

The Juvenile Division's Caring Canines Therapy Dog program continues to be beneficial for dependency court families. There are twenty therapy dog and handler teams who volunteer their services for the youth and families involved in the Juvenile Court. As a method for maintaining contact with the volunteer teams, the Circuit hosted the first "Caring Canines Chat" on April 7, 2016. The forum provide an opportunity to discuss the program, including concerns or ideas for improving the program. Three handlers participated in chat forum. The next "chat" is scheduled for August 25, 2016.



L to r: Caring Canines Volunteers Spencer Botkin, Susan Walker, and Helen Savill.

Gang Training

The Juvenile Division of the Court hosted a June 16th training on Gangs. Attendees included Judges and staff. The training was facilitated by West Palm Beach Police Detective James Louis. Detective Louis provided information on the history of gangs in the United States, signs that may indicate gang involvement, and information on local Palm Beach County gangs and gang activity.



Lunch-n-Learn: Water Safety

Anna Steward of the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County presented "Pool Safety" to the Lunch-n-Learn attendees on June 14, 2016. Ms. Steward shared information about water safety, including what to do if you and your vehicle are submerged in a body of water. Attendees also learned what to look for when purchasing flotation devices and how to make one with common household products.

Please visit www.PoolSafety.gov for lifesaving tips on drowning prevention.



Anna Steward demonstrates the proper fit of a life jacket with Lynn Anzalone from Court Technology.

Juvenile Division Community Service

The Juvenile Division of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit offers several community service opportunities for court-involved youth, including “Kids Kards” and Career Exploration activities. “Kids Kards” allows youth to create greeting cards for veterans’ with positive messages. For every three cards created, youth receive one hour of community service. Cards are delivered to the Veterans’ Hospital quarterly. In July, over 800 cards were delivered.



Juvenile Court Case Manager Daniel Svec.

Driving with License Suspended

Judge Frank S. Castor presided over a new specialty docket, Driving While Suspended ("DUS") docket, on May 12, 2016. On this date, a total of 91 defendants appeared before the Court. The DUS docket is ongoing and is calendared each Thursday at 1 p.m. in Courtroom 2D.

The DUS docket is a specialized docket, created to assist individuals by providing information on how to regain their driver's license, and who are also paying their associated court costs and fines. To be considered for the DUS docket, qualified defendants must first sign a deferred prosecution agreement which includes a time frame for compliance. During the compliance period, the defendant must not commit new criminal law violations, must obtain a new driver's license, and pay their outstanding fines and court costs. Upon completion of those requirements, if completed during the compliance period, the State will nolle prosequi the case.



DUS Court

Mediation Training

On April 9, 2016, Dr. Georgakopoulos presented a continuing education entitled “Multidisciplinary Program: Emphases in Communication and Conflict Resolution within Interpersonal, Intercultural, and Organizational Contexts” for Volunteers, County, Family, and Dependency mediators of the Fifteenth Circuit.



Mediation Services Coordinator Walter Colbath, Dr. Alexia Georgakopoulos, and ADR Director Bill Moreno.

Civil Traffic Hearing Officers' Annual Training

The Civil Traffic Hearing Officers held their annual training on June 7, 2016. The training curriculum included review of applicable laws, a presentation on implicit bias by Magistrate Diane Kirigin, a presentation on why diversity training is important by Mediation Services Coordinator Walter Colbath, and a panel discussion.

The panelists were: Yasir Billoo, Esq., President of the Florida Muslim Bar Association, John Foley, Esq., of the Palm Beach County Legal Aid Society, Corey Smith, Esq., a member of the F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. Bar Association, Christy McCann, Esq., President of the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association, Lindsey K. Demmery, Esq., President of the Palm Beach County Chapter of F.A.W.L, and Tom Runyan, Esq., Vice-President of the Gay and Lesbian Lawyers Network.



L to r: John Foley, Christy McCann, Lindsey K. Demmery, Tom Runyan, Corey Smith, and Yasir Billoo.



Volunteer Appreciation Workshop

The national, "Volunteer Appreciation" week took place April 10-16, 2016. The theme was "Volunteers a Work of Heart." To recognize and celebrate the Court's volunteers, Court Administration hosted two Volunteer Appreciation Day events: April 13th, at the South County Courthouse; and April 14th, at the Main Courthouse.

The Hon. Jessica Ticktin presided over the South County Courthouse appreciation event while Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath presided over the event held in the Main Courthouse. Each volunteer received a token of appreciation along with a catered brunch. Guest speaker Ms. Edwige Gilbert addressed both gatherings. Ms. Gilbert, an internationally recognized speaker, is the author of "The Fresh Start Promise: 28 days to total mind, body, and spirit transformation. Her forte is to teach people how to transform stress into strength and live healthier and happier lives. The Volunteer attendees enjoyed her presentation.



Volunteer Appreciation Day participants at the Main Judicial Complex.

Guardianship Training

On April 1, 2016 training on various guardianship topics was held for both attorneys on the Circuit's court appointed wheel as well as for judges, magistrates, and court staff working in the guardianship division. The training was coordinated by General Counsel Amy Borman, and included speakers from across South Florida.



Front row : Magistrates Jean-Adel Williams, Peter Bassaline, Tom Baker, and Linda Goodwin.

Back row: Magistrates Sara Alijewicz, Maxine Williams, Judette N. Fanelli, and Trial Court Administrator Barbara Dawicke.



Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath addressed the guardianship training attendees.

SUMMER JUDICIAL INTERNS

Four legal interns were selected to join the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's Summer Intern Program. The Interns, under the supervision of General Counsel, assist the judiciary with post-conviction motions, County to Circuit appeals, administrative appeals, and foreclosure issues.

As part of the Intern learning experience, the Interns are provided with the opportunity to tour the Palm Beach County jail, ride along with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, and observe an autopsy at the Medical Examiner's Office. This year, the Interns also observed Judge Joseph Marx preside over First Appearance and Judge Kathleen Kroll preside over shelter and detention hearings. The Judiciary's openness towards the Interns, including the willingness to hold discussions related to the law and court procedures, is a large component of the Summer Intern Program's success.

Information regarding the 2017 Summer Internship Program will be available on the Circuit's website in December 2017.



L-r: Matt Roberts (University of Florida), Jessica Galo (University of Florida), Eileen Pepple (University of Iowa), and Kyle Elliot (Duke University).

Circuit Civil Division Summer Interns

Five legal interns were selected to join the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's Civil Division for the summer. The Interns, under the supervision of Devon Mugridge, assisted the Circuit Civil Division. Jonathan Perry, Jayde Shulman, Alison Bowlby, Kara Roberts, and Evan Naar are all undergraduate students interested in pursuing law school.



L to r: Jonathan Perry, Jayde Shulman, Alison Bowlby, Kara Roberts, and Evan Naar.

Florida Court Technology Officer's Summit

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit hosted the Florida Court Technology Officer's summit. This annual event, which is coordinated by the hosting Circuit and OSCA, brings together technology leadership from all twenty Florida Circuits to evaluate new technological solutions, share system solutions, and discuss trends, legislation, rules, and technology policies.

Attendees were welcomed by Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath and Trial Court Administrator Barbara Dawicke. During the summit, several vendors gave presentations on solutions for digital signage, cyber security, cloud computing, and the future of digital recording.

All attendees were presented with homemade gift bags created by Senior Court Operations Manager Melissa Sotillo. The Fifteen Circuit's Court Technology staff served as Circuit Ambassadors escorting attendees to meetings and giving tours.



Left: Vendor Justice Audio Systems debuted a portal court recording system for temporary or emergency venues. JAVS invited attendees to test and evaluate the hardware during the summit.

FLORIDA COURT TECHNOLOGY OFFICER'S SUMMIT

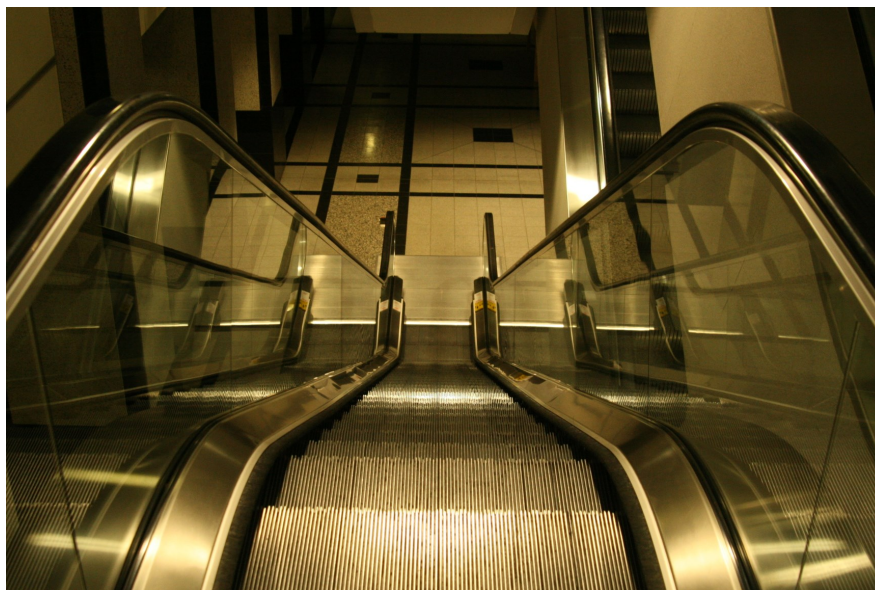


Front row: Robin Kelly, Lakisha Hall, and Christina Blakeslee.

Second Row: Craig McLean, Brian Peterson, Gary Hagan, Fred Buhl, Roosevelt Sawyer, Wen Ellenwood, and Terry Rodgers.

Third Row: Yvan Llanes, Dennis Menendez, Noel Chessman, Gerald Land, Craig VanBrussel, Alan Neubauer, Jim Weaver, and Eric Johnson.

Back Row: Brett Arquette, Robert Adelardi, and Steve Shaw.



2016 LAW DAY MOCK TRIAL: MIRANDA: MORE THAN WORDS

On April 29, 2016, more than 35 students, teachers, and assistants from the Royal Palm School in Lantana traveled to the North County Courthouse for a Law Day Mock Trial. The defendant, Ted Whatley, was charged with breaking into an automobile belonging to Rex Blazer with the intent to commit grand theft. He was also charged with grand theft less than \$5,000 for stealing costumes and a violin.

Judge John Phillips presided, and Judge Richard Oftedal acted as prosecutor during the case. Other volunteers enthusiastically played the role of the victim, the defendant, defense counsel, court personnel, and independent witnesses. The point was to present a modern day trial, with legal issues regarding Miranda rights and musical elements; and, of course to have fun.

The trial was presented in an hour, including the use of video evidence and the some live fiddle music by the victim. The students sat as jurors, and deliberated their verdict while volunteers presented an impromptu acoustic music concert in the well of the court. The jury found the defendant guilty.

Thanks to everyone at Royal Palm School, with special thanks to Judge Philips, Judge Oftedal, teacher Regina Brodsky, and to Justice Teaching volunteer Sheri Hazeltine, Esq., for making this wonderful field trip happen. It was a great Law Day all around. We are already making plans for next year.



2016 Law Day Mock Trial



L to r: Attorney Sheri Hazeltine, Judge Richard Oftedal, Regina Brodsky, and Judge John Phillips.

2016 LAW DAY MOCK TRIAL-MIRANDA RIGHTS CONTINUED...



Judge John Phillips addresses the Court.



Ted Whatley the defendant.



Music jam during deliberation.



The Jury makes their decision.

Excellence Awards

Congratulations to those persons nominated for the Judicial Assistant (JA) Recognition Award for the First Quarter of 2016:

- Nancy Brody
- Stephanie King
- Gloria Lozano
- Kimberly Mayorga
- Manuela Morales
- Kimberly Phillips
- Lorainne Pratts

Congratulations, also, to those persons nominated for the Court Administration employee of the first quarter of 2016:

- Rhoda Jones
- Ruth Ann Kravetz
- Jacquie Marshburn
- James Montada
- Steven Toner

The presentation ceremony was held on May 16, 2016 where the winners for the Fourth Quarter of 2016, as selected by the Committee, were announced.

In the Judicial Assistant category, there was a tie between two Judicial Assistants: **Stephanie King**, Judicial Assistant to Judge Cheryl Caracuzzo and **Manuela Morales**, Judicial Assistant to Judge Jessica Ticktin. In the Court Administration employee category the winner was **Ruth Ann Kravetz**, Court Program Specialist III.

Each of the winners received a plaque, a paid Administrative leave day, a photo in this newsletter, and four weeks of parking in the Judicial Parking garage. Congratulations to our winners.



L to r: Judge Jessica Ticktin, Judicial Assistant Manuela Morales, Retired Judge Ronald Alvarez, and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath.



L-r: Judge Cheryl Caracuzzo, Judicial Assistant Stephanie King, and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath.



L to r: Tara Kranz, Ruth Ann Kravetz, and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath.

JUDICIAL E-FILING SEMINAR

On April 5, 2016 Court Technology Officer Noel Chessman hosted a seminar to discuss changes resulting from the use of judicial viewers and the implementation of the judicial e-filing system.

The objective of the seminar was to inform the Clerk's Office and Court Administration about the processes and functions in place to manage the technical enhancements to the judicial e-filing system. Hutchinson Floyd, Larissa Kries, and Shilpa Proddutoor answered questions from the audience on form orders, report generation, and lack of prosecution hearings.



The seminar was well received by all.

JVS Demo Presentation given by Trial Court
Technology Officer Noel Chessman

Local Court Administration Staff Appointed to serve on Supreme Court of Florida Committees and Commissions:

Tammy Anton, Chief of Personnel Services serves on two of the Chief Justice's Communication Plan Subcommittees: Speaking with One Voice; and Social Media.

Amy Borman, General Counsel, completed her term as Chair of the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee on June 30, 2016. She has recently been appointed to a two year term on the Local Rules Advisory Committee pursuant to Administrative Order AOSC16-35.

Barbara Dawicke, Trial Court Administrator, was appointed to a two year term on the Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability pursuant to Supreme Court Administrative Order AOSC16-39. She continues to serve on the Court Interpreter Certification Board, having first been appointed in 2006. She also served on a subcommittee of the Judicial Management Council: the Florida Courts Long Range Strategic Plan Workgroup, Chaired by Judge Jonathan Gerber, from 2014 to December 2015. The Supreme Court released the 2016-2021 Long Range Strategic Plan for the Florida Courts in January 2016.

Bill Moreno, ADR Director, was reappointed to a three year term on the Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy pursuant to Administrative Order AOSC16-40.

Debra Oats, Court Operations Consultant, serves on two of the Chief Justice's Communication Plan subcommittees: Speaking with One Voice; and Website Content.

Michelle Spangenberg, Director of Case Management, serves as a member of the Trial Court Performance and Accountability ("TCP&A") Workgroup on Performance Management from 2015 to the present. In March 2016, the Workgroup released its final report and recommendations, entitled, "Establishing a Performance Management Framework for the Trial Courts, to the TCP&A for review.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Administrative Orders amended April 1-June 30, 2016 are:

A.O. 4.909-4/16 - IN RE: DRIVING WHILE LICENSE
SUSPENDED COURT (DUS)

A.O. 2.503 -4/16- IN RE: COURT REPORTING
SERVICES

A.O. 11.203 - 5/16 - IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF
MAGISTRATES as amended

A.O. 11.102-5/16* - IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES
AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE– as amended

A.O. 11.106-5/16 - IN RE: ALTERNATE
ASSIGNMENTS as amended

A.O. 2.501-6/16, In Re: Witness Management Office as
amended

A.O.2.502-6/16, In Re: Procedures for Scheduling and
Recording Depositions, etc., as amended

A.O. 10.301-6/16 - IN RE: CIVIL TRAFFIC
INFRACTION HEARING OFFICER PROGRAM as
amended

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>.

WELCOME TO THE CIRCUIT

Pamela Pitts	Digital Court Reporter
Stephanie White	Family Court Case Manager
Allyson Lynch	Administrative Assistant I
Lizary Ruiz	Information Desk Specialist
Sherod Sutton	Digital Court Reporter
Brandon Richardson	Juvenile Case Manager
Hannah Skotzke	Digital Court Reporter
Brittney Finley	Digital Court Reporter



Mediation Services Coordinator Walter Colbath
mediates with a moray eel.

