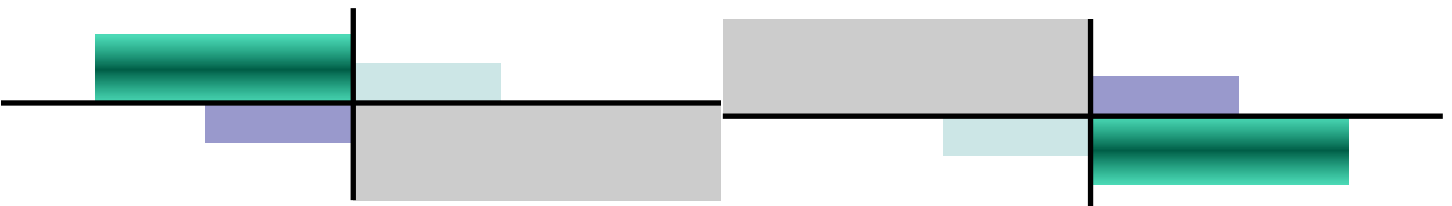


# Circuit Courier

October-December 2016

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Paulina  
Pasquarelli

Photo by Pam Pitts

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Hon. Jack Cox



## JUDGE MARTIN COLIN RETIRES

The Honorable Martin Colin, Circuit Judge, retired on December 31, 2016 after serving the citizens of Palm Beach County for thirteen years.

Judge Colin received his Bachelor of Arts degree from American University in 1971. After receiving his Juris Doctorate from Rutgers Law School, in 1974, Judge Colin began his career as a clerk for the firm of Arnold & Porter. In 1974, Judge Colin relocated to Florida to work at the Palm Beach County Public Defender's Office where he became Chief of the Felony Division. From 1992, he was a sole practitioner until his judicial appointment to the Circuit Court bench in 2004 by then Governor Jeb Bush.



Hon. Martin Colin

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### MacArthur Foundation Grant: Risk Assessment Tool Training

Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath hosted a training on the utilization of a new risk assessment tool that will be used for first appearance hearings. The training was conducted by national experts Rachel Sottile Logvin, Vice President, and John Clark, Senior Manager, Pretrial Justice Institute. The risk assessment tool will provide Judges information about a defendant's risk of engaging in a new criminal activity and failing to appear during pretrial release.

Currently the risk assessment tool is utilized in Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Kentucky, New Jersey, and West Virginia. Pretrial Services intends to implement a pilot project in 2017 using the risk assessment tool.



L to r: Bert Winkler, John Clark, Rachel Logvin, and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath.

### Veterans' Court

On November 7, 2016 the Veterans' Court celebrated its sixth anniversary. Dr. Elsa M. Zavas, Chief of Mental Health and Behavioral Science with the Veterans' Healthcare Administration was the special guest speaker. Judge Ted Booras welcomed guests and commended the volunteer mentors who were in attendance. Chief Judge Jeffery Colbath recognized Judge Ted Booras efforts and commitment to the Veterans' Court.



Left to r: Hon. Ted Booras; Carla-Paula DaSilva; Dr. Elsa Zayas; Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath; and Dave Aronberg, State Attorney.

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### Family Law Practice Committee Educational Session

The Palm Beach County Family Law Practice Committee with Court Administration and Department of Revenue attorneys held an educational session on Department of Revenue Child Support cases and procedures on November 17, 2016. Attorneys, Judges, Magistrates, Mediators, and other court staff participated in this educational session.

Magistrate Linda Goodwin and Attorney Don Pickett from Pickett, Marshall, & Rozenson, P.A., facilitated the session.



Session attendees learn about child support cases and procedures.

### Ms. Ruth Ann Kravetz, Family & Probate Court Case Manager, Retires

Ms. Ruth Ann Kravetz, Family & Probate Court Case Manager, retired December 13, 2016, after serving the citizens of Palm Beach County for thirty years. Ms. Kravetz first served as a Judicial Assistant to Judge Mary Lupo and worked with her for thirteen years.

In 2006, she joined the probate case management team to assist the judiciary and the pro se litigants in family proceedings. Ms. Kravetz also became the “go to” probate case manager assisting the judiciary and attorneys in probate and guardianship proceedings.

Chief Judge Jeffrey praised Ruth Ann at her farewell, “You have been a stalwart feature of Palm Beach County’s judicial climate for 30 years. You have improved the way we do business, you have been the pleasant and happy face of competence for many lawyers, litigants, judges, and coworkers for three decades. You have inspired us to do better with your grace and dignity.”



Retired Family & Probate Court Case Manager Ruth Ann Kravetz

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### Training for Magistrates and Case Managers

On October 31, 2016, Magistrates and Family Case Managers attended a seminar to discuss providing best practices in the Family division. Administrative Traffic Hearing Officer Sarah Blumberg and General Magistrate Diane Kirigin led the first session titled: “Dealing with Self-Represented Litigants.” This session focused on methods to assist self-represented litigants with their cases. The training also provided guidelines for handling difficult people.

Magistrate Maxine Williams and Family Court Case Manager Tara Kranz led the second session. This session was a brainstorming opportunity for the Family Court Managers to review, discuss, and improve upon current case management practices in post-judgment proceedings.



L to r: Sarah Blumberg and Magistrate Diane Kirigin present to training attendees.

## NEW ATTORNEY BREAKFAST

On October 28, 2016, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, in conjunction with the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Professionalism Committee, held its sixth 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; Palm Beach County Bar Association President John Whittles; and Palm Beach County Bar Association Young Lawyers' Section President Ashley Wilson. A panel discussion, moderated by Amy Borman included Judge Peter Blanc; Judge Jack Cox; Judge Daliah Weiss; Ron Ponzoli, Member of The Florida Bar Board of Governors; Sia Backer Barnes, President Elect Palm Beach County Bar Association; and Santo DiGangi; Jennifer Feld; and Peter Hunt.

The 2016 New Attorney Breakfast broke attendance records with ninety-one new attorneys in attendance, twenty-five judges, and seventeen voluntary bar associations.

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.



General Counsel Amy Borman at the New Attorney Breakfast.



Judge Richard Oftedal talks to a New Attorney Breakfast participant.



Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath greets participants.

# 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 18, 2016. 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, 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 Leslie Gray Streeter, Larry Rein, and Liz Quirantes. Additionally, Jim Sackett presented the annual Jim Sackett Adoption Advocate Award to the Martinez family. 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, Place of Hope, and the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County.

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 Kathleen Kroll and Adoption Day participants.



L to r: Magistrate Judette Fanelli; Judge Rosemarie Scher; Judge Kirk Volker; Judge James Martz; Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath; Judge Moses J. Baker; and Judge Kathleen Kroll.



Adoption Day Cards.

## Excellence Awards

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

- Erin Borden
- Kimberly Mayorga

Congratulations, also, to those persons nominated for the Court Administration employee of the Third Quarter of 2016:

- Adrione Gibbs
- Steven Toner
- Daniel Svec
- Philip Curtis
- Rhoda Jones
- Rhonda Dardashti
- Rolando Tatum

The presentation ceremony was held on November 10, 2016 where the winners for the Third Quarter of 2016 were announced.

In the Judicial Assistant category the winner was **Erin Borden**, Judicial Assistant to Judge Laura Johnson. In the Court Administration employee category the winner was **Philip Curtis**, Circuit Civil Case Manager.

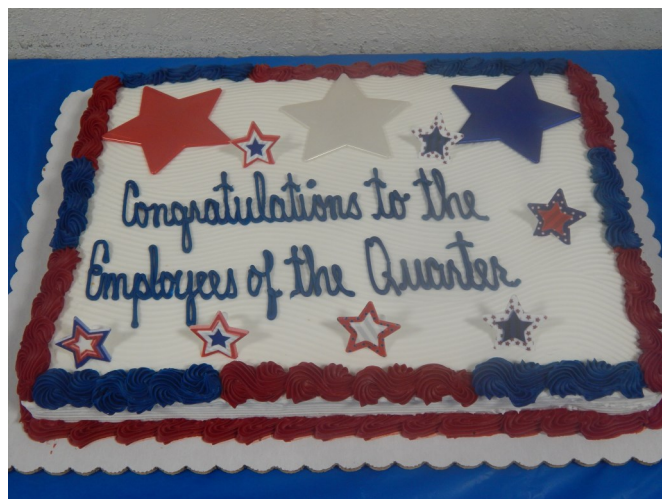
Each of the winners received a plaque, a paid Administrative leave day, a photo in the newsletter, and four weeks of parking in the Judicial Parking garage. Congratulations to our winners.



L to r: Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath; Judicial Assistant Erin Borden; and Judge Laura Johnson.



L to r: Philip Curtis and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath.





### Caring Canines

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 third "Caring Canines Chat" on November 17, 2016. The forum provides an opportunity to discuss the program, including concerns or ideas for improving the program. Four handlers participated in the chat forum.



L to r: Court Program Specialist Jacquie Marshburn; Rosebud; and Caring Canines Volunteer Spencer Botkin.

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### Termination of Parental Rights Appeals Training

On October 18, 2016, Lonn Weissblum, Clerk of the Fourth District Court of Appeal, conducted training for dependency attorneys and judges on Termination of Parental Right appeals.



Clerk Lonn Weissblum addresses the attendees.

# DELINQUENCY DRUG COURT GRADUATION

At graduation ceremonies held on November 2, 16, & 30, 2016 Judge Rosemarie Scher and Judge James Martz honored graduates 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 participants' accomplishments. Judge Scher provided the Court attendees with an overview of each graduate's life and presented the graduate with a certificate of completion.



Judge Rosemarie Scher and program graduate.



Program graduate



Judge James Martz and program graduate.

### Mediation Training

On October 17, 2016 the Volunteer County Mediators and Court Staff Mediators attended a training session on ethics, entitled “MEAC & YOU: A Guide to Ethical Best Practices”, presented by David A. Wolfson, Esp. Mr. Wolfson is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Appellate, Civil County and Circuit, Dependency, and Family Mediator and instructor.

The goal of the training session was to highlight ethical situations and discussing the best course of action to take in mediation situations.



David A. Wolfson, Esq. addresses the attendees.

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### South County Courthouse Volunteer Program

On December 12, 2016 Court Administration hosted a Volunteer interest meeting at the South County Courthouse located in Delray Beach, FL. The event allowed Court Administration to connect with citizens of Palm Beach County who are eager to serve the community.

Court Administration would like to extend a big thanks to Tehera Smith, Suzy Schwanz, and Joyce Danielson for helping make this event successful.



Potential volunteers gather at the South County Courthouse for an information session.

### PBCJAA Holiday Party

On December 8, 2016, the Palm Beach County Judicial Assistants Association held their annual holiday party. The holiday party was combined with PBCJAA's annual holiday donation project. The 2016 holiday donation project recipient was Toys for Tots. Sergeant Ferguson from the Palm Beach County Chapter of Toys for Tots was on hand to collect the donations.

PBCJAA also honored departing Judicial Assistants Erin Brandt & Carol Hall, as well as Family & Probate Court Case Manager Ruth Ann Kravetz.



PBCJAA Holiday Party

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### Unified Family Court Team Member: Suzy Schwanz

Ms. Suzy Schwanz was chosen for the position of Unified Family Court Case Manager. Before joining the UFC team, Ms. Schwanz was employed with the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit as a Legal Secretary for both Human Resources and Court Interpreting. Ms. Schwanz holds a Bachelor of Law degree from Multivix Faculdade Brasileria, Brazil. She also holds a Paralegal Studies Certificate from Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL. Ms. Schwanz's other professional experiences include two years as a Legal Intern at the Brazilian Courthouse in Santa Maria de Jetiba, Brazil, following which she was employed as a Judicial Assistant for five years at the Courthouse immediately after her internship.



Suzy Schwanz

Her supervisor is Tara Kranz and her office is located on the fifth floor in the Main Courthouse.

### Process Servers 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.15circuit.com/processservers.com](http://www.15circuit.com/processservers.com)



Process Servers Training.

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### Thanks for Giving

For the fifth year in a row, the Circuit's Court staff and Judicial Assistants collected canned goods and boxed food for the "Thanksgiving Food Drive," sponsored by Bill Brooks Food for Families.

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



L to r: Janet Leach-Ruth; Mary Quinlan; and Barbara Dawicke serve dessert to Court Staff.

### Caring Canines: Holiday Extravaganza!

On December 12, 2016, 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 Court Program Specialist Jacquie Marshburn.

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



Volunteers of Caring Canines and Jacquie Marshburn, Court Program Specialist II (second from right).

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### Court Administration Ugly Sweater Contest



L to r: Paulina Pasquarelli, Sarwar Siddiqui, Tammy Anton, and Amy Borman.



The winner: Sarwar Siddiqui.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Administrative Orders amended October 1-December 31, 2016 are:

AO 6.310 -10/16 IN RE: PROFESSIONAL GUARDIANSHIP REGISTRY AND APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL

A.O. 11.101-10/16 - IN RE: ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES

A.O. 10.301-11/16 - IN RE: CIVIL TRAFFIC INFRACTION HEARING OFFICER PROGRAM as amended.

Administrative Order 2.507-11/16\* – IN RE: COMPENSATION OF STAFF INTERPRETERS FOR DEPOSITIONS, which has been vacated and set aside

A.O. 11.106-11/16 - IN RE: ALTERNATE ASSIGNMENTS as amended.

A.O. 11.104-11/16 - IN RE: SENIORITY OF JUDGES as amended

FW: A.O. 11.102-11/16\* , IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE– as amended.

2nd amended A.O. 11.102 - IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A.O. 11.110 – 11/16 - IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF CIRCUIT JUDGES ACTING AS COUNTY JUDGES, ETC, entered on today's date, nunc pro tunc to October 1, 2016

A.O. 2.105-11/16\* - IN RE: FIFTEENTH CRICUIT PROFESSIONALISM PANEL as amended

A.O. 5.104-11/16 – IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF MAGISTRATES UNIFIED FAMILY COURT CASES as amended.

A.O. 5.212-11/16 - IN RE ORDER TO ATTEND PARENTING CLASS, etc as amended.

A.O. 4.205-11/16\* - IN RE: FORFEITURE AND DISCHARGE OF SURETY AND CASH BONDS

A.O. 11.101-11/16 - IN RE: ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES

Administrative Order 5.108-12/16\* – IN RE: FAMILY/ JUVENILE HYBRID DIVISION “FA/JM”, vacated and set aside

A.O. 11.109-12/16\* - IN RE: DUTY JUDGE ROSTER (2017)

A.O. 11.101-12/16 - IN RE: ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES as amended

Second amended A.O. 11.101-12/16 - IN RE: ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES

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

Hon. Sherri L. Collins	County Court Judge
Stephanie Miele	Digital Court Reporter
Caryn Klein	Mediator
Yashica Morris	Judicial Assistant
Suzy Schwanz	Family Case Manager
Kenneth Blanck	Senior Programmer
Lesley Restivo	Judicial Assistant
Meliette Noonan	Judicial Assistant



Holiday Kisses!

