

Circuit Courier

January-March 2017

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Cover Photo:
Deputy
LaFlamme

Side Photo by:
Deputy
LaFlamme

On February 8, 2017, the Judges of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit unanimously elected the Honorable Krista Marx as Chief Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit for the term of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019.

Judge Marx received her Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate degrees from Florida State University. Judge Marx worked as a prosecutor for the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office from 1985 until she was elected as a County Judge in 1998. She has served with distinction as a Circuit Judge since 2005.

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Hon. Krista Marx



Photo by: Sue Ling Curtis

INVESTITURE OF JUDGE DANA M. SANTINO

Judge Dana M. Santino was elected to the County Court by the citizens of Palm Beach County on November 6, 2016, filling a vacancy created by Judge Laura Johnson moving to Circuit Court.

Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Santino worked in private practice as an associate, partner, then solo practitioner, specializing in probate, guardianship, and estate planning from 2001-2006. Judge Santino received her Bachelor Degree from the Florida State University; her Juris Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University; and her LLM (Master of Law) in Taxation from the University of Florida.

Judge Santino's first assignment is in County Civil Division "RL" at the Main Judicial Complex. Her Judicial Assistant is Meliette Noonan. The office can be reached at 561-355-2768.

Family, colleagues, and friends gathered in ceremonial courtroom 11H of the Palm Beach County Main Judicial Center on January 27, 2017, for the investiture of Judge Dana M. Santino as a County Judge for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

Following the invocation from Jonathan Knaus, Judge Santino's nieces and nephews led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Judge Ted Booras presented a desk plate on behalf of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges. A Bible was presented by Christopher & Marisa Santino, brother and sister to Judge Santino.



Hon. Dana M. Santino

Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath administered the Oath of Office. The honor of enrobing Judge Santino went to Anthony and Theresa Santino.

Several traditional and ceremonial gifts were presented to Judge Santino: the gavel was presented by John R. Whittles, Esq., President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association. Immediately following were other gifts presented by Patricia Alexander, Esq., President of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association; John McGovern, Esq., President of Palm Beach County Justice Association; and Mariano Garcia, Esq., President of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

After the presentation of the gifts, remarks were made by Howard Weiss, Esq.; Hon. Cheryl Caracuzzo; and Chris Fragakis. Judge Santino followed the speakers with her thanks to her family, the Judiciary, and the community for all of the support that has been shown towards her. The ceremony concluded with the benediction by Mayor Bishop Thomas Masters.

INVESTITURE OF JUDGE LUIS DELGADO, JR.

Judge Luis Delgado, Jr. was elected to the Circuit Court by the citizens of Palm Beach County on November 6, 2016, filling a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Martin Colin.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Delgado was a solo practitioner. He received his Bachelor Degree and Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida. Judge Delgado is a former Sgt. in the United States Marine Corps.

Judge Delgado's first assignment is in Juvenile Division "JS" at the South County Courthouse. His Judicial Assistant is Lesley Restivo. The office can be reached at 561-274-1564.

Family, colleagues, and friends gathered in ceremonial courtroom 11H of the Palm Beach County Main Judicial Center on February 3, 2017, for the investiture of Judge Luis Delgado, Jr. as a Circuit Judge for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

Following the invocation from Matthew K. Schwencke, Esq., Walter Delgado led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Judge-Elect Krista Marx welcomed the group and acknowledged the Judicial Nominating Committee.

Judge Rosemarie M. Scher presented a desk plate on behalf of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges.

A Bible was presented by Santo Di-Gangi Esq., representing the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division.

Chief Judge-Elect Krista Marx administered the Oath of Office. The honor of enrobing Judge Delgado went to Luis and Elsa Delgado.

Several traditional and ceremonial gifts were presented to Judge Delgado: the gavel was presented by John R. Whittles, Esq., President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association. Immediately following were other gifts presented by Patricia Alexander, Esq., President of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association; John McGovern, Esq., President of Palm Beach County Justice Association; Laurie Adams, Esq., President of the American Board of Trial Advocates; and Nelson Baez, Esq., President of the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association.

Following the gift portion of the investiture, remarks were given by Howard Weiss, Esq. and Adriana Gonzalez, Esq. Judge Delgado expressed his thanks to his family, the Judiciary, and the community for all their support. The investiture ended with a benediction by Adam Myron, Esq.



Chief Judge-Elect Krista Marx swears in Judge Luis Delgado Jr.

INVESTITURE OF JUDGE BRADLEY HARPER

Judge Bradley Harper was elected to the County Court by the citizens of Palm Beach County on November 6, 2016, filling a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Barry Cohen.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Harper was a partner and trial attorney at Powers McNalis Law Firm. Previously, he was a partner at Olds, Stephens, & Harper, P.A. He received his Bachelor Degree, *cum laude*, from Morehouse College and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida College of Law.

Judge Harper's first assignment is in the County Criminal Division "L" at the Main Judicial Complex. His Judicial Assistant is Yashica Morris. The office can be reached at 561-355-1958.

The investiture of Judge Bradley Harper as a County Judge for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit was on February 17, 2017. The happy occasion was held in ceremonial courtroom 11H of the Palm Beach County Main Judicial Center. Family, colleagues, and friends were on hand to provide their support for Judge Harper.

Following the invocation from Reverend Ralph Pittman, Sr., Mathew, Isabella, Olivia, and Ada Harper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Judge Jeffery Colbath welcomed the group and acknowledged the Judicial Nominating Committee. The Ebony Chorale Ensemble led by Dr. Orville Lawton provided a selection of music.

Judge Sheree Cunningham presented a desk plate on behalf of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges.



L to r: Chief Judge Jeffery Colbath, Mrs. Harper, and Judge Bradley Harper.

A Bible was presented by Adam Rabin Esq., representing the Florida Board of Governors.

Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath administered the Oath of Office. The honor of enrobing Judge Harper went to Gayle and J. Henry Harper.

Several traditional and ceremonial gifts were presented to Judge Harper: the gavel was presented by John R. Whittles, Esq., President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association. Immediately following were other gifts presented by Patricia Alexander, Esq., President of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association; John McGovern, Esq., President of Palm Beach County Justice Association; Laurie Adams, Esq., President of the American Board of Trial Advocates; Lawonda Warren, Esq., President of the Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. Bar Association; and Nelson Baez, Esq., President of the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association.

Mike Pike, David Prather, Carlos Bodden, Bryan Bovsaw, and Bryan Stevenson, Esqs. gave remarks. Judge Harper expressed his gratitude to his family, the Judiciary, and the community for their support. At the end of the investiture, Reverend Joseph Tyson gave the benediction.

BENCH BAR CONFERENCE 2017

The Palm Beach County Bar Association hosted the Annual “Bench Bar” Conference on March 10, 2017. The annual event provides a valuable opportunity for the judiciary and the legal community to interact, socialize, and discuss topics relevant to the practice of law in Palm Beach County. Members of the Judiciary and Court Administration staff assisted the event by hosting and/or leading several of the educational and informational sessions.

The morning sessions were geared towards new attorneys, and small or solo practices. During the morning sessions, attendees were able to attend presentations on topics that addressed dispute resolution, county civil; probate and estate; federal law; and e-courts. The Young Lawyers section of the Bar also presented on “Making a Good Name for Yourself.” The afternoon session focused on topics of interest to the Judges, Magistrates, and attorneys at large. Several members of the Judiciary participated in group discussions related to commercial litigation, criminal law, family law, and personal injury law.

John R. Whittles, the Palm Beach County Bar Association President, welcomed the attendees during the lunchtime program. During the program, Chief Judge Colbath addressed the “State of the Judiciary” followed by the awarding of the Sid Stubb’s Professionalism Award to Michael Mopsick and the Judge Edward Rodgers Diversity Award to attorney Gary Lesser.



Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath and Public Defender Carey Haughwout.



Hon. Scott Suskauer and Hon. Howard K. Coates, Jr.



Hon. Richard Oftedal and Hon. John Phillips, Retired Judge.



Hon. Peter Blanc and General Counsel Amy Borman.

Judge Moses Baker, Jr. Retires

The Honorable Moses Baker, Jr. retired January 31, 2017, after serving the citizens of Palm Beach County for twenty-three years. Before his appointment to the Circuit bench, Judge Moses Baker, Jr. was a partner at the West Palm Beach law firm of Searcy, Denney, Scarola, Barnhart, & Shipley.

In 1994, Governor Lawton Chiles appointed Judge Baker to the Circuit Bench where he served with distinction. Judge Baker spent the last fifteen years of his career in juvenile court. He established a program to keep at-risk kids at the Riviera Beach High School from ending up in court. In 2014, he received the statewide William E. Gladstone Award for establishing the program.



Hon. Moses Baker, Jr.

Adopt-A-Bear Program

On February 14, 2017, the Palm Beach County Juvenile Courts were gifted with a large supply of brand new stuffed animals, courtesy of Michele Gillen and the Adopt-A-Bear program. Administrative Judge, James Martz, Judge Daliah Weiss, Judge Greg Keyser, and Magistrate Judette Fanelli were presented with several of teddy bears to be given out to the children who appear in court.



L to r: Judge Keyser, Michele Gillen, Judge Martz, Judge Weiss, and Magistrate Fanelli.

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

On February 2, 2017, more than 100 children and parents participated in the 2nd Annual Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court's Take Your Child to Work Day, organized by Judge Rosemarie Scher, Court Administration, and Rina K. Clemens, Esq., representing the Florida Association for Women Lawyers.

During the event, participants experienced a mock trial, learned the importance of following rules, watched a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office canine demonstration, and met Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath, Judge Samantha Schosberg Feuer, Judge Lisa Small, Judge Meenu Sasser, Judge Peter Blanc, and Judge Edward Artau.

State Attorney Dave Aronberg, Commissioner Dave Kerner, and Felony Division Chief of the Office of the Public Defender Daniel Eisinger spoke to the children at lunch.



L to r: Family Court Operations Manager Tara Kranz, Chief Deputy Court Administrator Mary Quinan, and Juvenile Court Services Manager Cristy Altaro and their daughters.



2017 Take Your Child to Work Day Participants

Process Servers Swearing in Ceremony

On January 23, 2017, thirty-one newly certified process servers were sworn in. All thirty-one participants have completed the required training and have successfully passed the process server examination.

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.



Process Servers being sworn in.

Lunch-n-Learn: Interview Etiquette

Trial Court Administrator Barbara Dawicke and Chief of Personnel Services Tammy Anton presented “Interview Etiquette” to the Lunch-n-Learn attendees on January 12, 2017. Ms. Dawicke and Ms. Anton presented several etiquette tips to ensure the interviewee gives their best impression possible to prospective employers. Court Operations Manager William Hutchings assisted during the mock interview.



Tammy Anton and Barbara Dawicke present “Interview Etiquette.”

Lunch-n-Learn: Technology

In March 2017, Court Technology hosted a series of technology lunch-n-learns. The series of lunch-n-learns covered the following topics: an overview of JVS, e-filing, e-forms, e-service, and the queue.

The lunch-n-learn series was led by a panel of highly skilled technology users and implementers: Court Technology Officer Noel Chessman, Senior Analyst Programmer Larissa Kries, Systems Administrator II Shilpa Proddutoor, Civil Court Operations Manager Devon Mugridge, and Judicial Assistant Stephanie King.



Lunch-n-Learn participants learn about the Judicial Viewer System.

L to r: Lunch-n-Learn presenters Shilpa Proddutoor, Devon Mugridge, Stephanie King, and Larissa Kries.

Keep up with the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's latest news. Follow us on Twitter: @15thCircuit

If you do not have an account, you can also see our latest Tweets by clicking on the Twitter icon on the lower right side of the Circuit webpage.



Diversity Training Workshop

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit hosted a diversity training workshop for members of the judiciary and court staff on March 3, 2017. The event was facilitated by Barbara Cheives, a local diversity trainer.

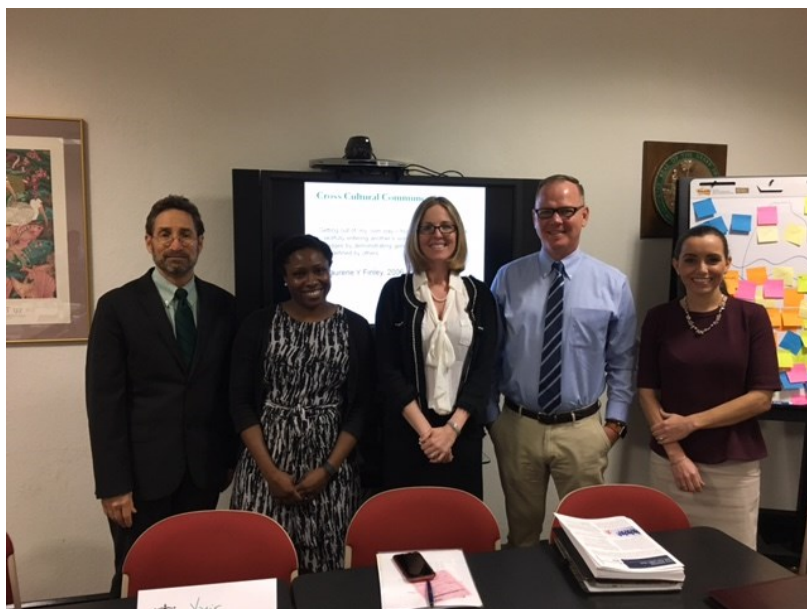
The event was attended by thirty-two members of Court Administration.

The full day program addressed key points about diversity issues and provided guidance on how to tear down bias (conscious or not) that affects the decisions we make. The afternoon session consisted of a panel discussion by various members of local bar associations: John Foley, Esq., Attorney with Legal Aid Society; Whitney Baldwin, Esq., Member of F. Malcolm Cunningham Bar Association; Lindsay K. Demmery, Esq., President of the Palm Beach County Florida Association of Women Lawyers; Jamie Forman, Esq., Attorney for Palm Beach County Human Rights Council; and Christa L. McCann, Esq., President of the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association.

Fairness and Diversity training is a Supreme Court initiative and is mandatory for all judges, magistrates, and court personnel. Additional sessions will be offered next fiscal year.



Ms. Barbara Cheives and Jamie Foreman.



L to r: John Foley, Whitney Baldwin, Lindsay K. Demmery, Jamie Foreman, and Christa L. McCann.

Palm Beach County Mock Trial Competition

On February 23, 2017, Dona Klein Jewish Academy (DKJA) participated in the Palm Beach County Mock Trial Competition at the Fifteenth Judicial Courthouse. The Mock Trial Competition was founded by the Florida Law Related Education Association. DKJA students role played attorneys and witnesses in a fictional criminal trial. The students met with Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath, ADR Director Bill Moreno, and Mediation Services Coordinator Walter Colbath, III to learn about the court system and the mediation process. The team consisted of: Abe Wasserstein, Naomi Fills, Ari Holzhauer, Hadassah Richman, Alex Starr, Rebecca Wirtschafter, Aaron Fills, Sam Bernstein, Megan Sharp, and Moshe Gad.



PBC Mock Trial Competition participants at the Main Judicial Complex.

Excellence Awards

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

- Nancy Brody
- Marilyn Greathouse
- Lucille Kilgallon
- Stephanie King
- Andrea Morris
- Sherrie Norton

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

- Nicholas Fricke
- Kelly Gould
- Nicole Karlecke
- Marissa Sansone

The presentation ceremony was held on February 23, 2017 where the winners for the Fourth Quarter of 2016, as selected by the Committee, were announced.

In the Judicial Assistant category, the winner was **Andrea Morris**, Judicial Assistant to Judge Edward Artau. In the Court Administration employee category the winner was **Nicole Karlecke**, Magistrate Assistant to Magistrate Jean-Adel Williams.

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 Edward Artau, Judicial Assistant Andrea Morris, and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath.



L-r: Magistrate Jean-Adel Williams, Nicole Karlecke, and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Administrative Orders amended January 1, 2017 to March 31, 2017 are:

A.O. 5.308-1/17 - IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE CHILD SUPPORT CASES as amended

A.O. 2.503 – 1/17- IN RE: COURT REPORTING SERVICES as amended

A.O. 5.308-1/17 - IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE CHILD SUPPORT CASES as amended

A.O. 11.106-1/17 - IN RE: ALTERNATE ASSIGNMENTS as amended, effective January 17, 2017

A.O. 11.102-1/17* , IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE– as amended, effective January 17, 2017.

A.O. 5.203-1/17* , IN RE: EMERGENCY MATTERS IN FAMILY LAW CASES– as amended

A.O. 5.109-1/17- IN RE: DATE OF BIRTH FORM FOR UNIFIED FAMILY COURT CASE IDENTIFICATION as amended

A.O. 4.101-1/17 - IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES IN THE CRIMINAL DIVISION as amended

Administrative Order 4.103 – IN RE: COMPANION AND REFILED CASES - vacated and set aside.

A.O. 11.104-2/17 - IN RE: SENIORITY OF JUDGES as amended

A.O. 2.503 – 2/17- IN RE: COURT REPORTING SERVICES as amended to correct attached FAQ's only

A.O. 5.212-2/17 - IN RE ORDER TO ATTEND PARENTING EDUCATION, etc as amended

A.O. 11.101-3/17 - IN RE: ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES as amended, effective March 3, 2017.

A.O. 11.106-3/17 - IN RE: ALTERNATE ASSIGNMENTS as amended

A.O. 11.104-3/17 - IN RE: SENIORITY OF JUDGES as amended

A.O. 11.101-3/17 - IN RE: ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES as amended, effective March 27, 2017

A.O. 11.109-3/17 - IN RE: DUTY JUDGE ROSTER as amended

A.O. 11.110 – 3/17 - IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF CIRCUIT JUDGES ACTING AS COUNTY 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. Luis Delgado	Circuit Court Judge
Hon. Dana M. Santino	County Court Judge
Hon. Bradley Harper	County Court Judge
Hon. James T. Ferrara	Circuit Court Judge
Sandra Becerra	Judicial Assistant
Kathy Evans	Web Design Coordinator
Maxine Martin	Magistrate Assistant
Nicolette Anderson	Probate Court Case Manager
LaPorcia Wagner	Judicial Assistant
Shamina Saemmer	Magistrate Assistant
Evan Gray	Law Library Associate II
Tara Gledhill	Administrative Assistant I
Mary Yves-Etienne	Judicial Assistant
Cayleigh Lauvier	Digital Court Reporter
Joi Lasnick	Receptionist
Dawn Gregory	Magistrate Assistant

