

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

APRIL - JUNE 2019 | VOLUME 2019 - 2

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THE CIRCUIT MOURNS HON. MEENU SASSER

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of the Honorable Meenu Sasser, Circuit Judge.

Judge Sasser, who was appointed to the bench by Gov. Charlie Crist on April 30, 2009, passed away on Saturday, July 6, 2019, after facing and fighting a courageous battle against cancer.



Judge Sasser

Judge Sasser served the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit as a Circuit Judge in the Circuit Civil, Foreclosure, and Criminal divisions.

During her tenure, she sought and implemented innovative procedures and processes to assist litigants and attorneys alike.

Judge Sasser received her B.S. degree from the College of William and Mary in 1992 and her J.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1995.

She began her law career in 1995 as an associate with the law firm of Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart. She became a shareholder of the firm in 2002 and remained with the firm until she was appointed to the Circuit bench.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Judge Sasser's family and friends.



Judge Sasser

AWARDS & HONORS

Employee Recognition Award Winners



Award recipient Andrea Morris, Judicial Assistant (left) with Chief Judge Marx.



Award recipient Ken Blanck, Senior Programmer (right) with Noel Chessman, Chief Information Officer.

Congratulations to the individuals nominated for the Employee Recognition awards for the first quarter of 2019. Nominees included: Judicial Assistants Gloria Lozano, Andrea Morris, and Kim Phillips, **and** Court Administration staff Ken Blanck, Erika Ireland, Nicole Karlecke, Rivkah Kranz, Astride Limouzin, Alexei Lopez, Stephanie Miele, Letitia Mirtyl, Toni O'Brien, and Renee Ward.

At the April 23rd ceremony many staff members gathered in the Judicial Conference Room and the Chief Judge announced the winners. **Andrea Morris** was named the Judicial Assistant of the Quarter, and **Ken Blanck** was named the Court Administration Employee of the Quarter. Award winners receive a paid administrative leave day; a month of parking in the judicial parking garage; an official Circuit tumbler; a plaque; and the Circuit's "Perpetual Trophy."

To nominate an employee for a recognition award, visit <http://151.132.36.247/nominations/>.

Hon. Luis Delgado Receives President's Award



On Saturday, May 18th, the South Palm Beach County Bar Association awarded the Honorable Luis Delgado the President's Award. Congratulations to Judge Delgado for being selected to receive this prestigious award.

Hon. Luis Delgado

Hon. Joseph Marx Named Jurist of the Year

On Thursday, May 16th, the North County section of the Palm Beach County Bar named the Honorable Joseph Marx, Jurist of the year. Our congratulations to Judge Marx for this well-deserved honor. Judge Marx has been on the bench since 2003.



Hon. Joseph Marx

Hon. Jessica Ticktin Named Jurist of the Year (Twice)



Hon. Jessica Ticktin

The Honorable Jessica Ticktin was named Jurist of the Year by two separate organizations in May. On May 4th, the Florida chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers named her "Jurist of the Year." On May 18th she was awarded "Jurist of the Year" by the South Palm Beach County Bar Association. The Circuit is very proud of Judge Ticktin's achievements.

JUDICIAL INVESTITURES

Hon. Paige Hardy Gillman



Chief Judge Marx administers the oath of office with Paige Hardy Gillman (right, center), who is with her parents, Melba Hardy Martin and Keith Hardy.

On April 26, 2019, family, friends, and colleagues gathered for the investiture of the Honorable Paige Hardy Gillman. Governor Rick Scott appointed Judge Gillman as a County Court Judge in November 2018 and she took the bench in December 2018. Remarks on behalf of Judge Gillman were given by the Hon. Alan O. Frost, Fourth District Court of Appeal; Molly Nardella, Esquire, Nardella & Nardella, PLLC; and Scott Konopka, Esquire, Mrachek, Fitzgerald, Konopka, Thomas & Weiss.

Prior to her election to the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Judge Gillman was a litigation associate at the West Palm Beach firm Mrachek, Fitzgerald, Rose, Konopka, Thomas & Weiss.

She earned both her Bachelor's and Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida.

Judge Gillman is currently assigned to County Civil court. Her judicial assistant is Alexandra Beeman.



Judge Paige Hardy Gillman

Hon. Ashley Zuckerman

On May 10th, 2019, an investiture was held for the Honorable Ashley Zuckerman. Judge Zuckerman was elected to the County Court bench in November 2018 for a seat that began in January 2019. The presentation of the bible was given by Ron Ponzoli, Esquire, on behalf of the Florida Conference of County Judges. Nina Zuckerman Chapp, an aunt of Judge Zuckerman, presented the robing. Remarks on behalf of Judge Zuckerman were given by Hon. Barry Cohen, Senior Judge; Barbara A. White, Esq.; and Steve Zuckerman, an uncle of Judge Zuckerman.

Prior to her election as County Judge, Judge Zuckerman worked as an Assistant Public Defender, in Palm Beach County, for seven years. She received a Bachelor's degree in English from Florida Atlantic University, and a Juris Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University.

Judge Zuckerman is currently assigned to County Civil Court. Her judicial assistant is Audrie Leo.



Left: Chief Judge Marx (far left) administers the Oath of Office with Judge Zuckerman (middle), who is accompanied by her aunt, Candy Zuckerman (far right)

Below: Judge Zuckerman (left) with Chief Judge Marx.



AROUND THE COURTHOUSE

Criminal Justice Academy Graduation

On April 29th, four Court Administration employees graduated from the Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy. This three-month evening program offers an exclusive, behind the scenes look a the criminal justice system in Palm Beach County. Participants met senior staff at the Sheriff's Department, toured the Palm Beach County Jail, learned about the court system, and attended presentations by judges and senior court staff.

Right photo (Left to right):

Jackson Mack, Criminal Court Case Manager; Paulina Pasquarelli, Mental Health Case Manager; Hannah Skotzke, Program Coordinator, Court Reporting/Witness Management; and Stewart Saalfeld, Court Analyst.



Civil Sidebar



On June 24th, the Palm Beach County Bar Young Lawyers Section (YLS) attended a civil sidebar moderated by Judge Feuer. Florida Supreme Court Justice Robert Luck was the honored guest. It was well-attended with forty-five YLS members present.

The Circuit Celebrates Law Week



Left to Right: Judge Nutt, Judge Curley, Judge Alijewicz, and Judge Bonavita

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit celebrated Law Week during the first week of May. Students from Berean Christian School visited on April 30th, and students from the IDEAL School of Leadership and Inlet Grove High school visited on May 2nd.

Students were welcomed by Chief Judge Marx. Activities included an interactive Civics activity that was led by Andrea McMillan and Alcolya J.L. St. Juste, a question and answer session lunch with a panel of judges, and a discussion led by Judge Joseph Marx.

Students had the opportunity to observe a court session and also attended a presentation by PBSO and met two of their bomb-sniffing dogs.



Above: Judge Joseph Marx addresses a group of students from Berean Christian High School.

Searching Smarter

On April 9th, attorneys who frequent the law library gathered for a training on how to more effectively use Westlaw. Participants learned about new enhancements, features, and content available on Westlaw, a legal research database available in the library. The training was held in the main courthouse law library conference room. Westlaw is available at all three library locations in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, and Delray Beach. CLE credit was available to Florida Bar members who attended.



Above: Attorneys attend a Westlaw training in the main courthouse law library conference room

Family Court Workshop



Left to right: Toni O'Brien, Jeffrey Kash, Tara Kranz, Amy Wagner, Laura Lavoie, Suzy Schwanz, Renee Ward, Laura Leite, Kelly Henderson, Lisset Pino, Linda Peters, Erika Ireland, Lourdes Castillo, Debra "Jill" Sconyers, Danni Hoefling, and Linda Fraser.

On April 17, 2019, the family mediators and family case managers gathered for a half-day workshop in the law library. Attendees received technology training, a mindfulness presentation, and a team collaboration discussion of emerging issues in both departments and brainstorming best practices.

ICM Graduation

On April 3, 2019, Circuit employees completed the Court Management Program (CMP) Certification from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). This certification included a series of 6 courses, which was held at the Main Courthouse.

The following courses started in September, 2017, and were completed in April, 2019: Purposes and Responsibilities of Courts, Accountability & Court Performance, Caseflow & Workflow Management, Workforce Management, Budget & Fiscal Management, and Project Management for Courts.

Each employee received an ICM certificate (Institute for Court Management) for each course, and a final certificate showing completion of Level 1 of the Court Management Program, Certified Court Manager (CCM). Congratulations to all of our graduates.



Front row, from left to right: Michelle Cruz, Tammy Anton, Tehera Smith, Sue Ling Curtis, Joi Lasnick.
Back row, from left to right: Tara Kranz, Dani Hoefling, Devon Mugridge, Mary Quinlan, Cristy Altaro, Denise Van Vooren, William Hutchings, Rhoda Jones, Astride Limouzin, Stewart Saalfeld, Melissa Sotillo, Daniel Svec, Jennifer Ford, Adrione Gibbs, and Kelly Squire.

Palm Beach County JA Board of Directors Installation

The PBC Judicial Assistants Association held its new incoming Board of Directors Installation Ceremony on June 18, 2019. The Honorable **Judge Lisa Small (pictured center)** administered the oaths and presided over the induction.



The current board, pictured left (L-R): Brenda Gleason, Sabrina Valdez, Diana Grant, Denise Van Vooren (Donna Holden – not pictured) congratulates the **new incoming board, pictured right (L-R)** Denise Van Vooren, Torina Jenkins-Edwards, Brenda Gleason, Marianna Contreras, and Lesley Restivo.

LUNCH AND LEARN

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit has been busy with a variety of topics for "Lunch and Learn" sessions.

On April 29, 2019, Mary Verzaal and Liana Figueroa of the Clerk & Comptroller's Office, presented a Lunch & Learn to Circuit employees, titled, "Fines & Fees." They discussed the functions and services of the Clerk's Office, distribution of fines and fees, payment plans, and more.

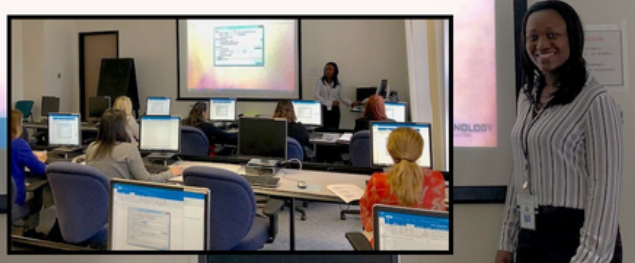
On May 7, 2019, Gigi Jones, Court Software Training Specialist presented a Lunch & Learn to Circuit employees, titled, "Microsoft Outlook Tips & Tricks." Some topics discussed were delaying delivery, organizing folders, recalling sent mail, and other helpful shortcuts.

On May 14, 2019, Charmant Theodore and Roody Barthelemy of the Court Interpreting Department, presented a Lunch & Learn to Circuit employees, titled, "Haitian Heritage," in honor of Haitian Heritage History Month. They discussed the land, the people, educational system, reviewed Haiti's history, and provided a quick lesson on Haiti's language. Haitian cuisine was also provided.

On May 21, 2019, C. Marsha Martino of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), presented a Lunch & Learn to Circuit employees, titled, "Mental Health Awareness." NAMI Palm Beach County is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing education, support and advocacy with the goal to empower individuals living with mental illness and their families.

On June 11, 2019, Marcella Pelaez and David Bunzel, from Habitat for Humanity, presented a Lunch & Learn to Circuit employees, titled, "Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity." They discussed different types of volunteer opportunities available.

7 Tips To Make You More Productive in Outlook



Gigi Jones (far right), Court Software Training Specialist presents on Microsoft Outlook Tricks



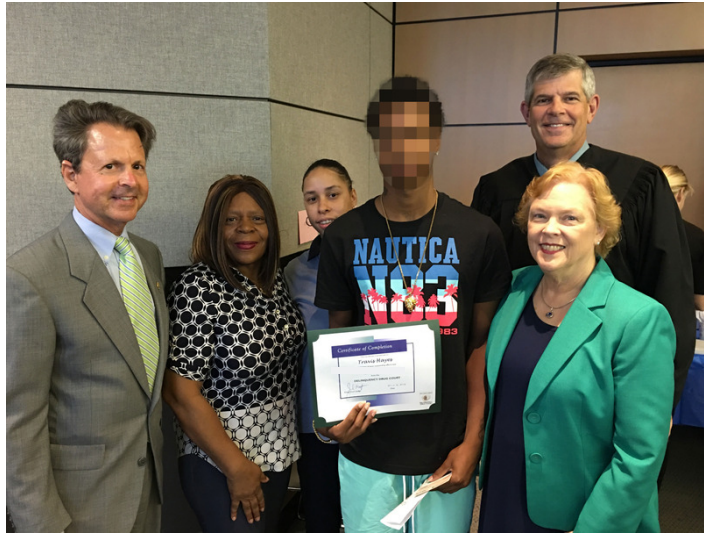
Left to right Charmant Theodore, Gigi Jones, Astride Limouzin, Roody Barthelemy



Marcella Peloez and David Bunzel from Habitat for Humanity

Delinquency Drug Court

Delinquency Drug Court recently celebrated the successes of three participants. These youth worked hard to complete all of their treatment requirements and other court-ordered sanctions. Additionally, one of the participants completed an intensive automotive training program, which also included life skills and academic instruction. Drug Court offers mentoring services for program participants, and the first participant with a mentor graduated in May; his mentor stood by him proudly at the graduation. Delinquency Drug Court anticipates more successes and graduation ceremonies in the next few months.



Left: left to right:
Commissioner Weiss,
Grandmother, Mother,
Graduate, Judge Martz,
Commissioner Berger



Left: Brandon
Richardson, Graduate

Right: Mentor,
Graduate



EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Jeffrey Kash, Family Mediator

Jeffrey Kash has worked as a family mediator in South County since February 2018. Prior to his work as a mediator with the Circuit, he was a family law attorney in Pennsylvania for thirty years. As a Family mediator, Mr. Kash mediates family and juvenile issues with litigants who choose to use the Circuit's ADR services.

Mr. Kash is partnering with another Circuit mediator, Toni O'Brien, to deliver a presentation at the Florida Dispute Resolution Conference in August. The presentation will address time management techniques for mediation.

Outside of work, Mr. Kash enjoys cooking, playing tennis, and playing the bass guitar. He was previously in a rock band with his family, including his wife who played the drums and his stepson who played lead guitar. He also has a son who is a math teacher and a daughter who is a chemist.

Mr. Kash's office is located on the second floor of the South County Courthouse, across the hall from the Law Library.



Jeffrey Kash with his two dogs, Heisenberg (Heisy) and Embarkadero (Emmie)

WELCOME TO THE CIRCUIT

Welcome to our new employees who joined the Circuit from April to June 2019 including:

April Bristow, General Counsel,
Astride Limouzin, Creole Court Interpreter (transfer)
Alexandra Beeman, Judicial Assistant
Ashley Auerbach, Juvenile Court Intern
Tesia Morris, Floating Judicial Assistant
Mia Werksman, Juvenile Court Intern

Sarah Strothman, Magistrate Assistant
Christopher Norris, Trial Court Law Clerk
Nnaemeka Ukaebgu, Administrative Assistant I
Jason Silver, Computer Specialist II
Violeta Woxberg, Judicial Assistant
Michael Bonan, Supervising Senior Trial Court Law Clerk

TECH TIPS

7 Critical Cybersecurity Terms Everyone Should Know

Increasingly, more government and court networks are the targets of malicious attacks. Correcting these attacks often costs hundreds of thousands of dollars and result in loss of services. **Did you know** that most recent attacks have been the result of a user clicking on a bogus link? Knowing the terms listed below may help you recognize a potential threat.

1

MALWARE

Malware is an umbrella term that refers to malicious software designed to gain access to and damage your computer. Common forms of malware are viruses, ransomware, Trojan horses and worms.

**2**

WORM

Worm is a type of malware that spreads copies of itself from computer to computer. A worm can replicate itself without any human interaction, and it does not need to attach itself to a software program in order to cause damage.

**3**

VIRUS

Virus is a type of malware designed to corrupt, erase or modify information on a computer before spreading to others.

**4**

TROJAN HORSE

Trojan horse is a type of malicious code or software that looks legitimate but can take control of your computer. A Trojan is designed to damage, disrupt, steal, harm your data or network. Trojans usually arrive via email or are pushed on users when they visit infected websites.



5

RANSOMWARE

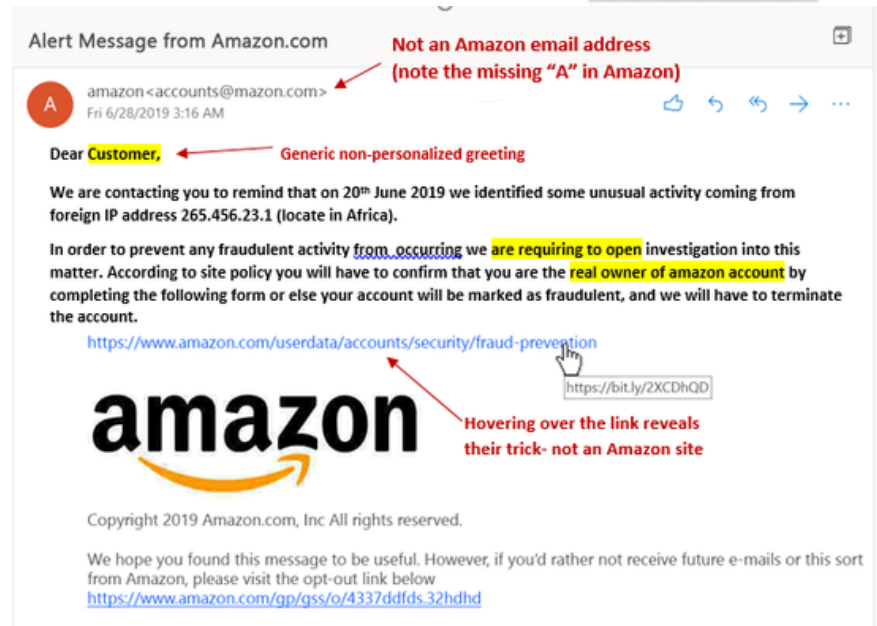
Ransomware is a form of malware that prevents users from accessing their computer system and holds data hostage until a specified sum of money is paid.



6

PHISHING

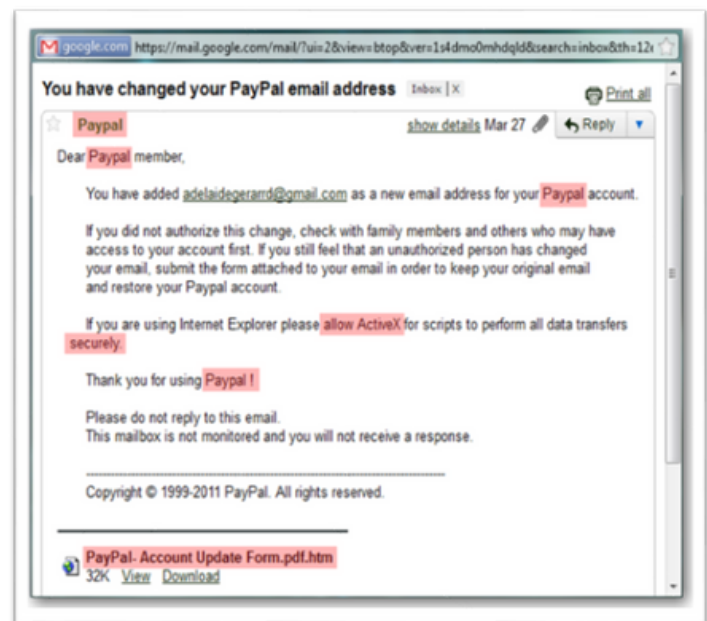
Phishing is a method of gaining personal information using deceptive emails and websites that appear, on the surface, are sent from trusted and legitimate institutions.



7

SPEAR PHISHING

In spear phishing, emails typically attack and target decision makers within a company. They often pretend to be a trusted colleague, friend or partner, managers and administrators.



Want to know more?

Cybersecurity

Malware: Avoid, Detect and Report

How to Recognize and Avoid Phishing Scams

What is malware? Viruses, worms, Trojans and beyond

Email Cad-HELP@pbcgov.org



Gigi Jones

“Tech Tips” is provided by Software Training Specialist Gigi Jones. For more information or to suggest a future “Tech Tips” topic, please email cad-training@pbcgov.org.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Administrative orders amended from April 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019 include:

A.O. 11.102, 04-01-2019: Assignment of Administrative Judges and Executive Committee

A.O. 11.109, 04-01-2019: Duty Judge Roster

A.O. 11.205, 04-11-2019: Magistrate Hiring Procedures

A.O. 4.603, 4-11-2019: County Criminal Regions/Branch Courthouses

A.O. 10.401, 04-18-2019: Assignment of Civil Traffic Infractions

A.O. 5.805, 4-23-2019: Truancy Court

A.O. 4.802, 4-23-2019: Persons in Custody for Out of County Holds

A.O. 6.313, 4-30-2019: Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult Injunctions

A.O. 4.202, 4-30-2019: Schedule of Bonds

A.O. 6.314, 5-7-2019: Eldercaring Coordination Education for Professional Guardians and Court Appointed Lawyers

A.O. 11.603, 5-9-2019: Law Clerks/Internal Operating Procedure

A.O. 2.303, 5-9-2019: Sealing Court Hearings and Records

A.O. 2.604, 5-9-2019: Court Appointed Counsel

A.O. 2.315, 5-31-2019: Implementation of Uniform Case Reporting (UCR) Regarding Case Status Reporting Requirements

A.O. 5.509, 6-11-2019: Batter's Intervention Programs

A.O. 5.201, 6-28-2019: Uniform Motion Calendar Practice in Family Court

For updates to the latest Administrative Orders (AOs) for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, visit our website at: <https://www.15thcircuit.com/updated-administrative-orders>

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

27-31 Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators

AUGUST

4-7 National Conference of Court Public Information Officers
5-7 Annual Education Program of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges
5-7 Annual Education Program of the Trial Court Administrators
8-9 Judicial Faculty Training Course
8-9 Florida Courts Technology Commission (FCTC) Meeting
8-13 American Bar Association (ABA) Annual Meeting
15 Annual Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Directors Meeting
15-17 Dispute Resolution Center Annual Conference
20-23 Florida Courts Public Information Officers (FCPIO) Annual Meeting
28 Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) Meeting

SEPTEMBER

2 Labor Day Holiday – Court Closed
4-6 Florida Conference of District Court of Appeal Judges Annual Education Program
4-6 Appellate Clerks and Marshals Education Program
6 Florida Commission on Access to Civil Justice Meeting
10-12 Court Technology Conference
12-13 Joint Meeting of the Steering Committee on Problem-Solving Courts (PSC) and the Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court (FCC),
15-19 American Judges Association (AJA) 2019 Annual Conference
17-20 Court Interpreter Orientation Workshops
19-20 Judicial Management Council (JMC) and Workgroup Meetings
24 Joint Investiture of Justice Robert Luck and Justice Carlos Muñoz
24-27 Judicial Assistants Association of Florida (JAAF) Educational Conference
26-29 Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) Annual Convention
30 Rosh Hashanah Holiday – Court Closed

The Circuit Courier

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