

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

JANUARY - MARCH 2019 | VOLUME 2019 - 1

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Chief Judge Marx (4th from left), Barbara Dawicke (to the right of and behind Chief Judge Marx), Judge Delgado (7th from right), Judge Burton (second from right), Judge Feuer (far right) along with members of the PBC Young Lawyers Association, FAWL, and SC FAWL gathered for the grand opening.

NURSING ROOM OPENS IN SOUTH COUNTY

The South County Nursing Room was officially opened on February 27th, 2019 by Chief Judge Marx. Judge Feuer, Katie Kiziah, Past President of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL), FAWL members, members of the Palm Beach County Bar Young Lawyers Association, Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, and Trial Court Administrator, Barbara Dawicke, were all instrumental in bringing the idea for the room to fruition.

The nursing room is located in room 2C-114, second floor, South County Courthouse, 200 West Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach.

FAWL and the Young Lawyers outfitted the room with furniture to make the room suitable and comfortable for nursing mothers. Individuals seeking to use the room should stop by the South County Courthouse Law Library (located on the second floor) to request entry.



Left to Right: Judge Feuer, Chief Judge Marx, and Katie Kiziah, Past President of FAWL, cut the ribbon.

AWARDS & HONORS

Employee Recognition Award Winners

Congratulations to the individuals nominated for the Employee Recognition awards for the Fourth quarter of 2018. Nominees included: **Judicial Assistants Marianna Contreras and Donna Holden. Court Administration staff Lourdes Castillo, Carlo Del Castillo, Mirna Hernandez Winn, Rolando Tatum, and Renee Ward.**

At the February 7 ceremony, the Chief Judge announced the winners. **Donna Holden, Judicial Assistant of the Quarter and Rolando Tatum, Court Administration Employee of the Quarter.** Award winners will 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/> and see the information below related to submitting a nomination.



Left: Judge Eissey (far left) stands with award recipient Donna Holden (middle) receiving award from Chief Judge Marx (far right).

Right: Melissa Sotillo, Court Reporting Manager (left) with award Recipient, Rolando Tatum, Lead Digital Court Reporter



Employee Recognition Awards

WHAT ARE THE AWARDS CRITERIA?

Nominations may be made for superior performance by an employee who has demonstrated excellence in the work place. Nominations should be supported with specifics.

WHO CAN NOMINATE and WHO CAN BE RECOGNIZED?

Nominations may be submitted by any member of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Employees/ Judicial Assistants who have been employed by the Circuit for at least one year are eligible for an award.

HOW ARE RECOGNIZED EMPLOYEES SELECTED?

Nominations are reviewed and selected by the Selection Committee. Decisions by the Selection Committee are final.

Hon. Krista Marx re-elected to serve as Chief Judge



Chief Judge Krista Marx

During the Full Court meeting on February 6th, 2019, the Judges of the Circuit re-elected the Honorable Krista Marx to serve a second term as the Chief Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Chief Judge Marx's first term will end on June 30, 2019. Her new term will begin on July 1, 2019 and ends on June 30, 2021.

Hon. Bradley Harper Receives Diversity Award

The Honorable Bradley Harper was awarded the prestigious Judge Edward Rodgers Diversity Award at the Bench Bar Conference held on February 22, 2019. This award is presented annually by the Palm Beach County Bar Association and recognizes someone who promotes and supports diversity and inclusion initiatives within the legal community. Judge Harper has served as President of the F. Malcolm Cunningham Sr. Bar Association as well as held leadership positions on other committees such as the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County.



Hon. Bradley Harper

JUDGE INVESTITURES

Hon. Sara Alijewicz

On February 1st, 2019, family, friends, and colleagues gathered for an investiture held for the Honorable Sara Alijewicz, who was elected to the County Court in August 2018 and began her term in January 2019. Remarks on behalf of Judge Alijewicz were given by the Honorable James Martz, Robert Bertisch, Executive Director of Palm Beach County Legal Aid Society, and her children Katie and Michael Alijewicz.

Pictured Right: The Administration of Oath of Office of the Honorable Sara Alijewicz (far right) with her husband, Alex Alijewicz (middle), by Chief Judge Marx (far left)



Pictured Above: The Honorable Sara Alijewicz's children, Katie and Michael Alijewicz, pay honor to their mother at the Investiture.

Judge Sara Alijewicz

Prior to her election to the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Hon. Sara Alijewicz, served as a General Magistrate from 2010-2018. She also worked as a staff and supervising attorney for Palm Beach Legal Aid Society, and private practice.

Judge Alijewicz earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Science from Illinois Wesleyan University and a JD from Nova Southeastern University.

She is currently assigned to the County Criminal Division and her Judicial Assistant is Isabel Pereira.

Hon. Sarah Willis

On February 8th, 2019, an Investiture was held for the Honorable Sarah Willis. Judge Willis was elected to the Circuit Court bench in November 2018 and began serving as a Judge in Family and Probate Court on January 8th, 2019. Remarks on behalf of Judge Willis were given by her mother, Ruth Willis, the Honorable Daliah Weiss, and her brother, Thomas Wendell Willis, Jr.



Above: The Administration of the Oath of Office is given by Chief Judge Marx (left) to Judge Sarah Willis.



Above: Judge Sarah Willis's mother, Ruth Willis

Judge Sarah Willis

Prior to her election to the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, the Hon. Sarah Willis worked as a general magistrate, associate attorney, assistant state attorney, and as an assistant statewide prosecutor for the Florida Attorney General's Office.

Judge Willis earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Florida Atlantic University, followed by a JD from Florida State University.

She is currently assigned to the Family, Probate Division and her Judicial Assistant is Bridget Schloss.

Hon. Maxine Cheesman



Above: Judge Maxine Cheesman is sworn in by Chief Judge Marx

The Investiture of the Honorable Maxine Cheesman was held on On March 1st, 2019. Judge Cheesman was elected in November 2018. She began serving as Judge in the Family and Probate Division on January 8th, 2019. Remarks on behalf of Judge Cheesman were given by: Tequisha Myles, Esquire; Robert Guerrier, Esquire and Sandra Close Turnquest; Shauna Cheesman, PhD; and Jacqueline Cheesman, LPC.



Above: The enrobing of Judge Maxine Cheesman, pictured with her brother, Kurt Cheesman, and friend, Nadine White Boyd, Esq.

Judge Maxine Cheesman

Prior to her election to the Circuit Court bench of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Hon. Maxine Cheesman worked as an attorney in private practice. She also had a 25-year career as a scientist with the South Florida Management District.

Judge Cheesman earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of the West Indies, a Master of Science in Organic Chemistry from the University of Miami, and a JD from Nova Southeastern University.

She is currently assigned to the Family and Probate Division and her Judicial Assistant is Monique Harris.

Hon. Scott Kerner

On March 1st, 2019, the Investiture of the Honorable Scott Kerner was held. Judge Kerner was elected as Circuit Court Judge in November 2018 and he began serving as Judge in the Circuit Civil Division on January 8th, 2019. Remarks on behalf of Judge Kerner were given by: Jason Weisser, Esq., friend; Dave Kerner, Vice Mayor and brother of Judge Kerner; and his mother, Laura Kerner.



Above: Judge Scott Kerner with Chief Judge Marx.

Judge Scott Kerner

Prior to his election to the Circuit Court, Judge Kerner worked as a litigation attorney for 10 years.

Judge Kerner earned both a Bachelor and Master of Arts degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton, and a JD from St. Thomas University.

He is currently assigned to the Circuit Civil Division and his Judicial Assistant is Kelly Squire.



Above: The enrobing of Judge Scott Kerner, pictured with his wife, Vanessa Kerner, and daughter, Antonella Kerner.

AROUND THE COURTHOUSE

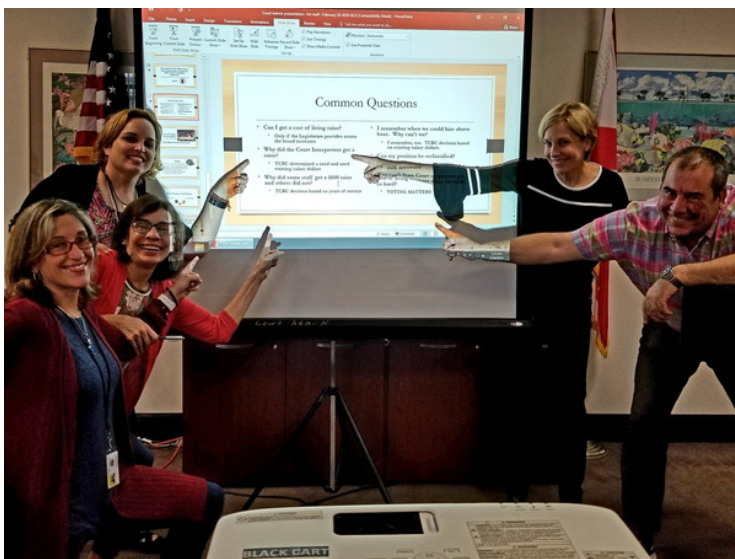
Institute for Court Management Certification Course

On January 16th, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit hosted the fifth course of the six-course Institute for Course Management certification course. Mark Van Bever and Donald Jacobson were the instructors for the course. Approximately 40 court staff, including staff from other circuits, were in attendance.

Right: Instructor Mark Van Bever is shown with a class on Court Finance, as part of the Institute for Court Management certification course.



Court Funding Presentation



Above: Top Left, top to bottom: Angelica Duggan, Beatriz Griffey, and Angela Afanador with Barbara Dawicke (Top right) and Tony Pereira

Barbara Dawicke, Trial Court Administrator, presented on the topic "Who Funds the Courts?" on February 18th, 2019. A room full of court administration staff attended as Ms. Dawicke explained in more detail the two primary sources of funding, and also answered common questions regarding court funding.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Unwrapping Your Gift

On February 12th, 2019, Serena Chambers, a Life Coach and Motivational Speaker, presented a Lunch & Learn to Circuit employees, titled, "The Gift." She spoke about self discovery and valuing oneself.



Serena Chambers

Overtime Shred

On March 6, 2019, the Circuit held its second after hours Lunch & Learn, presented by Rob Jason, titled, "Overtime Shred." Mr. Jason is a personal trainer and practices HIIT – High-intensity interval training, a method which alternates between intense bursts of activity and fixed periods of less-intense activity. Court employees worked through various exercises for beginner and advanced routines.



Rob Jason

Time Management

On March 12, 2019, Hallie Agostinelli presented a Lunch & Learn to Circuit employees, titled, "Time Management." Ms. Agostinelli discussed numerous methods to help get one's life organized. She gave suggestions and tips on time management, organization options, and reminded us that time management is equal to life management.



Hallie Agostinelli

Take Your Child to Work Day

February 1st, 2019 was "Take Your Child to Work Day," which was organized by Judges Sasser and Feuer, Tammy Anton, Chief of Personnel Services, members of FAWL, the Palm Beach Bar Association, and Court Administration Staff. Approximately 95 children participated and received a welcome from Chief Judge Marx, followed by observation of court events, a security dog demo, and an education panel.



Pictured above is the panel from Take your child to work day. Left to right: Amanda Jesteadt, FAWL President; Craig Williams, State Attorney Office; Carol DeGraffenreidt, Esq, Florida Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division; The Honorable Samantha Schosberg Feuer, The Honorable Meenu Sasser; Carey Haughwout, Esq., Public Defender for Palm Beach County; Commissioner Christina Lambert - West Palm Beach City Commission, District 5; Angie Pagán, Esq., Law Office of Angie Pagán, PLLC; Mayor Mack Bernard, Board of County Commissioners, District 7; Genevieve Bonan, Assistant Attorney General; Stephanie Serafin, FAWL.



Left: Chief Judge Marx addresses a room full of children on "Take Your Child to Work Day."

Courthouse Tours



Pictured Above: Students from Boca Prep watch PBSO officers demonstrate with Abbey.

Students from **Boca Prep International** toured the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in January. The tour consisted of a court observation before Judge Kelley, followed by a Q&A session led by Judge Rowe. The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office held a demonstration with Abbey, the first female K9 assigned to the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.



Pictured Above: Judge Bradley Harper poses with individuals from the Pap Corps Champions for Cancer Research during the Courthouse tour.

The **Pap Corps Champions for Cancer Research** is the largest volunteer cancer fundraising organization in South Florida and is dedicated to supporting research for all types of cancer at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Members visited the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in January for a tour.



Pictured Above: Students from the Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship program visit the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit for a courthouse tour, pictured here with Judge Kastrenakes

Approximately 30 students from the **Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship Program** visited the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit for a tour in January. The tour consisted of a Circuit Criminal court observation before Honorable John Kastrenakes, followed by a Q&A session with the Judge and court staff and concluded with a tour of the Jury office and Law Library.

Delinquency Drug Court

Delinquency Drug Court is committed to helping Palm Beach County youth with a substance abuse problem. Through intensive case management and enhanced court supervision, the program continues to celebrate the successes of its graduates. On February 27th, the program held a very special, long-awaited graduation. This youth had been in the program for some time and overcame countless hurdles. More importantly, he achieved a number of milestones along the way, including completing residential treatment, obtaining a job in the IT field, and enrolling in college. The program has also recently begun offering mentoring services for program participants. Currently, one participant is matched with a mentor and the Circuit has a few mentors ready to be matched.



Above: A graduate from the program during the February 27th, 2019 graduation

Civil Mediation Updates



Before

After

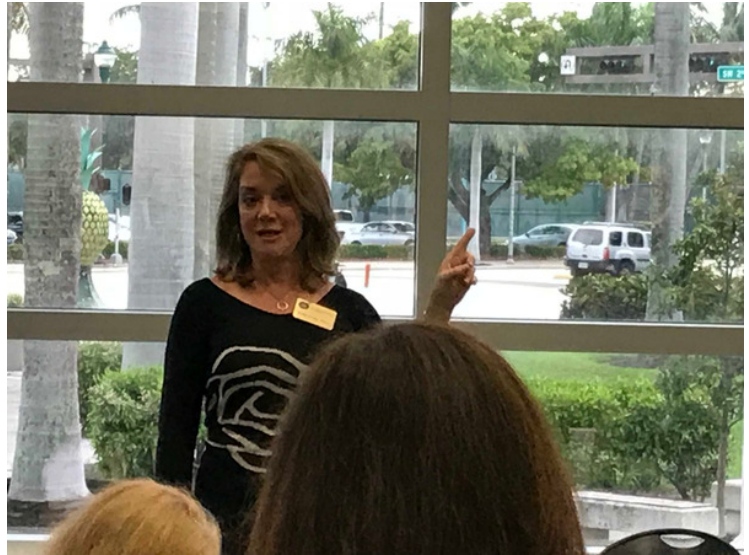
Thanks to work by Danni Hoefling, Alternative Dispute Resolution Director, mediators, attorneys, and litigants are enjoying the new feel of the mediation rooms at the Main Branch Courthouse. The rooms have been updated to better serve their purpose. These rooms are now more inviting, with larger conference tables, freshly painted walls, and, brighter lights. To the left is one example of a before and after mediation room.

Java with the Judges

The South Palm Beach County Bar Association continues hosting successful "Java with the Judges" events in the South County Courthouse. Below are photos from the January and March Java with the Judges events.



Above: Left to right: Scott Weiss, SPBCB Director, Jacob Warren, & Judges Burton, Feuer, & Delgado at the January 2019 "Java with the Judges" event



Above: Chief Judge Marx was the featured speaker for the monthly "Java with the Judges" event on March 27th

Judges Hold Mock Trial

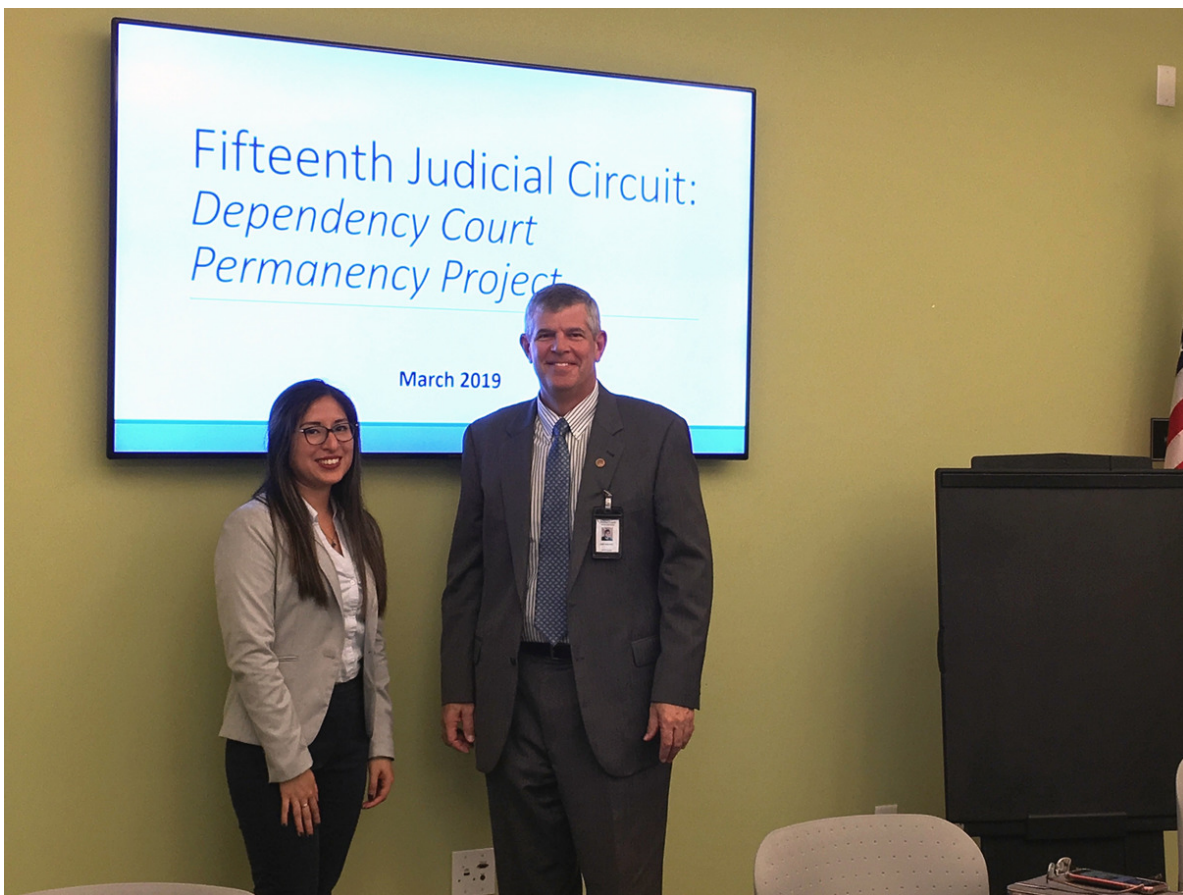
On March 5th, 2019, Judges met with local high school students involved in a mock trial, along with members of the Inns of Court. Shown here, Judge Weiss answers questions after hearing oral arguments.



Above: Left to right: Judge Weiss, Appellate Judge Martha C. Warner, and Appellate Judge Robert M. Gross answer questions

Juvenile Court Presentation

On March 18th, 2019, Juvenile Court presented to the Palm Beach County Community Alliance at the Children Services Council in Boynton Beach. The Community Alliance is a group of local child and family advocates and community leaders dedicated to increased services, resources, and support for children and families. In May of 2018, the Circuit was fortunate to hire a Permanency Coordinator, Diana Alvarado. For nearly 6 months, she worked vigorously to complete an in-depth analysis of dependency cases, focusing on delays in achieving permanency. At the conclusion of the review, statistical reports were generated and examined by Court staff and Judge Martz. The findings and recommendations were shared with stakeholders at the meeting. The presentation was well-received and resulted in continued discussion and action steps. A special thank you to Judge Martz and Diana Alvarado for their hard work and dedication to this project.



Above, Left to right: Diana Alvarado, Permanency Coordinator, and Judge Martz

Student Trial Advocacy Competition

In March 2019, Judges Feuer and Small were volunteer judges for the American Association for Justice Student Trial Advocacy Competition. This is a national mock trial competition that is held every spring in 14 regional locations. Every year, over 150 law schools participate, consisting of approximately 224 teams with 896 law students.

Right: Judge Samantha Feuer (far left) and Judge Lisa Small (third from right) pose with students at the AAJ Student Trial Advocacy Competition.



Palm Beach County Judicial Assistants Association Outing



In December 2018, judicial assistants celebrated the holidays with a festive dinner outing to Texas de Brazil.

Picture Left: L-R (front row): Carla Glover, Kimberly Massengill, Donna Holden, Denise Van Vooren, Millie Noonan, Sabrina Valdez, Diana Grant, Sherrie Norton.

L-R (back row): Starr Searcy, Carey Helmes, Lucille Kilgallon, Jessica Wolfkill, Brenda Gleason, Mona Driscoll, Maureen Carroll, Erin Brandt, and Marilyn Cartwright.

Court Shadow Day with Pre-Law University Services at FAU

Pre Law University Services, also known as PLUS, is a community of undergraduate students who are interested in attending law school and establishing a future career in law.

Many PLUS members have been able to secure an internship with the State Attorney's Office in Palm Beach County. Additionally, the State Attorney's Office court shadow day on March 11th, 2019 allowed members access to court rooms as well as the law library and clerk's office. PLUS members enjoyed the opportunity to observe action in the courtroom.

To conclude the Court Shadow Day, the Honorable Judge August Bonavita shared with the group his life story and professional legal journey that has led him to where he is now. Not only did he actively engage the group with his hospitality, his positive outlook on everyday life was inspirational to the students. Judge Bonavita answered a variety of questions from students in relation to law school, career transitions, and networking skills.

Pictured Right: Letitia Mirtyl, Personnel Management Analyst (far left) and Judge Bonavita (bottom center) pose with a group of FAU's PLUS members during Court Shadow Day



TECH TIPS



OUTLOOK TIPS & TRICKS



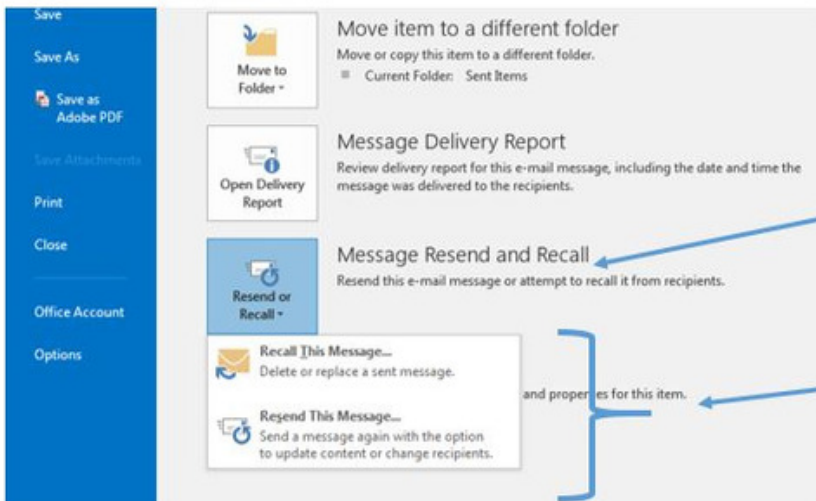
How to recall and resend an email:

Oops! It happens to everyone. You sent an email with incorrect information, not enough information, or worse, to the wrong person. No worries, if you act fast you can recall and resend the email.



Here's how:

- Quickly go to your "Sent Items" folder, locate the email and double-click to open;
- Click the File button



• Select "Message Resend and Recall"

- Select either "Recall This Message" or "Resend This Message"

Note: This feature is **not** guaranteed! An opened email cannot be recalled. Other email systems, such as Gmail, may also be unable to recall.



Gigi Jones

Tech Tips is provided by Gigi Jones, Court Software Training Specialist at the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Look for future court tech tips in the next Courier.

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

Court Reporting

Accurate, efficient, and customer-service oriented are the three words Melissa Sotillo, Senior Court Operations Manager, used to describe the Court Reporting Services Department, which she oversees. Court Reporting consists of: four court reporters, who transcribe verbatim on capital, first degree murder trials and high profile cases; 15.5 digital court reporters and two contractual digital court reporters, who rotate to a different courtroom every quarter and use technology to capture audio and video of court proceedings, and take log notes on cases; four scopists, who edit, proofread and finalize transcripts; one program coordinator who coordinates transcript work assignments and vendor relationships and one administrative assistant who handles the majority of customer service for the Department.

Unifying such a large team might be a challenge for some, but for this team it is an opportunity to embrace teamwork. Monthly team socials are planned to encourage team building. Recently, nine staff members met on a Saturday to volunteer at the Quantum House by cooking and preparing a brunch for families residing on the property. The following month, staff held a picnic on the front lawn of the historical courthouse and finished with a tour of the historical courthouse.

Some current projects in Court Reporting include unifying the courtroom signage to indicate that digital recordings occur in specific courtrooms, relocating hundreds of archives within the retention period from the seventh floor, and converting backup archives on to a server. In March 2019 alone, over 300 requests for digital recordings were processed plus over 200 hours of court proceedings were covered by court reporters, in addition to the over 1,500 hours of court proceedings that were digitally recorded. Employees in Court Reporting take pride in what they do and the service they provide to ensure an accurate record.

Pictured Right:

Top Row, Left to right: Catherine Dore, Joy Ransom, Hannah Skotzke, Pamela Pitts, Rolando Tatum, Stephanie Miele, Kayla Harris, Domenic Ruffa, Jr., Roberto Garcia, Jr.

Middle Row, Left to right: Le'Andrea Boggs, Brittney Finley, Sandra Trias, Nancy Fisher, Tyrell Siagi, Yvonne Williams, Suzanne Otway-Miller, Michelle Voce

Bottom Row, Left to Right: Christopher Barnhill, Karen Keogh, Brianna M. Kronenberg-Davino, Cayleigh Lauver, Melissa Sotillo

