

NEWS BULLETIN OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT COURIER

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Investiture of the Hon. April Bristow



Chief Judge Kelley administers the Oath of Office



Chief Judge Kelley, Judge Bristow, and Mr. J. Chris Bristow, Judge Bristow's husband



Judge Bristow's sister, Dr. Kate Barrier, assists with the robing, as Judge Bristow's family watches

On Friday, June 3, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit celebrated the Investiture of the Honorable April Bristow. Despite the tropical storm that was predicted, many of Judge Bristow's family and supporters were able to attend. Chief Judge Kelley presided over the event, administering the Oath of Office. Chief Deputy Clerk Shannon Ramsey-Chessman presented the Judicial Commission on behalf of the Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller's Office. Judge Bristow's sister, Dr. Kate Barrier, assisted with the robing. Among those giving remarks on behalf of Judge Bristow were the Honorable Krista Marx, retired Fifteenth Circuit Chief Judge, the Honorable Dorian Damoorgian, 4th District Court of Appeal, and Mr. J. Chris Bristow, Judge Bristow's husband. Each spoke to her tireless work ethic and her devotion to her family.

Judge Bristow gave thanks for this opportunity, adding "I truly care about the law and the judiciary. Our government cannot function without a strong and independent judiciary."

Judge Bristow earned her bachelor of arts in English from the University of Florida and her Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law. Prior to being appointed as a county judge, she served as an appellate law clerk to Judge Damoorgian in the 4th District Court of Appeal, and most recently General Counsel for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

Judge Bristow fills the vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. Sandra Bosso-Pardo. She is assisted by Judicial Assistant Kristina Rosdao and presides over County Criminal Division L at the Judge Daniel T. K. Hurley Courthouse.

New Judicial Appointments



Hon. Lauren Burke

Hon. Lauren Burke

The Hon. Lauren Burke was appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis on April 14 to serve on the County bench. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. Mark T. Eissey. Judge Burke served as an Assistant State Attorney in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit for 17 years. She received her bachelor's degree from Boston College and her Juris Doctor from Florida State University. She is assigned to Civil Division RJ and is assisted by Tanisha Shambo.

Hon. James Sherman

The Hon. James Sherman was appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis on April 14 to serve on the County bench. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. Leonard Hanser. Before joining the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Judge Sherman served as a senior attorney for the South Florida Water Management District. Judge Sherman received his bachelor's degree from Florida State University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Miami. He is assigned to Civil Division RF and is assisted by Donna Francis.



Hon. James Sherman



Hon. Darren Shull

Hon. Darren Shull

The Hon. Darren Shull was appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis on April 14 to serve on the Circuit bench. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. Joseph Marx. Before joining the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Judge Shull served as a Partner and Director for the Law Offices of Darren D. Shull, P.A. Prior to that, he served in the United States Marine Corps for six years. Judge Shull received his bachelor's degree from Flagler College and his Juris Doctor from St. Thomas University. He is assigned to Division FA and is assisted by Steffany Kinderman Coneo.

Florida Supreme Court Justice Nominee

The Florida Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission submitted a short list of finalists to Governor Ron DeSantis on Monday, June 13. Included among the six nominees was Circuit Judge Renatha Francis. Judge Francis was appointed to the Miami-Dade County Court as by Governor Rick Scott in 2017. She was elevated to Circuit Judge with the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in June 2018. She was then appointed to the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in November 2019.

Governor DeSantis must appoint a new justice to fill the vacancy that was created by the retirement of Justice C. Alan Lawson by August 12, 2022.



Hon. Renatha Francis

Judge Francis earned her bachelor's degree from the University of the West Indies and her Juris Doctor from Florida Coastal School of Law. She is currently assigned to Family Division FC at the Judge Daniel T. K. Hurley Courthouse. She is assisted by Demetria Stewart.

Newly Appointed Judges Attend Judicial College



Left to Right: Hon. April Bristow, Hon. Ori Silver, Hon. Lauren Burke, Hon. James Sherman, Hon. Darren Shull

The newly appointed judges of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit attended Judicial College in May. In Florida, judges who are new to the bench are required to complete the Florida Judicial College program during their first year of judicial service following selection to the bench. The program is taught by a distinguished faculty drawn from the state's most experienced trial and appellate judges. It is facilitated by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

Hon. Ted Booras Presents to Leadership Palm Beach County



Judge Booras addresses attendees

The Hon. Ted Booras addressed Leadership Palm Beach County on Thursday, April 14. Judge Booras explained First Appearance procedures and the importance of First Appearance. After his presentation, he answered questions from the attendees.

Leadership Palm Beach County is a non-profit organization that brings together leaders from the public, private and non-profit sectors to build and steward a vibrant, interconnected community.

For more information, visit https://www.leadershippbc.org/.

Full Court Meeting



Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Full Court

Chief Judge Kelley held the quarterly Full Court meeting on Wednesday, April 20. Immediately following the meeting, the majority of the judges were photographed together for a Full Court photo. The Chief Judge was pleased that so many members of the judiciary, including the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's three new judges, could attend.

Ilana Marcus Hired to Serve as a Magistrate

The Selection Panel chose Ms. Ilana Marcus as the new Family Magistrate for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Ms. Marcus was most recently employed with the Public Defender's Office. She worked for many years as an attorney in the Mental Health Division and as the Assistant Public Defender carrying the Baker Act caseload.

Ms. Marcus double majored in Anthropology and Political Science at Illinois Wesleyan University. She earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Miami.

Ms. Marcus began her new role on July 11. She is located in the Judge Daniel T. K. Hurley Courthouse.



Magistrate Marcus Image source: Florida Bar

Katherine Mullinax Hired as General Counsel



Katherine Mullinax

Katherine Mullinax was hired as General Counsel for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. In this role, Ms. Mullinax's duties are varied and extensive, including providing legal counsel to the Chief Judge and Trial Court Administrator, handling of public records requests, addressing employment issues, and supervising the Trial Court Law Clerk Program.

Ms. Mullinax holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. She received her Juris Doctor from Florida International University College of Law.

Previously, Ms. Mullinax served the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit as a Supervising Trial Court Law Clerk. In addition to this experience, she brings with her years of experience as a private practice civil trial attorney. She was employed as an associate attorney with Alonso, Perez, Brown & Santos, LLP, Miami, as a Partner with WM Law Group LLP, Boynton Beach, and as an attorney with Mullinax Law in Jupiter.

Ms. Mullinax began her new role on June 7th. Her office is located on the Fifth Floor of the Judge Daniel T. K. Hurley Courthouse.

New Hires in Human Resources



William H. Hutchings, Jr., Chief of Personnel Services

William H. Hutchings, Jr.

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit is pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. William H. Hutchings, Jr. as the Chief of Personnel Services. Mr. Hutchings brings to this role extensive Human Resources (HR) experience and Fifteenth Judicial Circuit-specific HR knowledge.

From 2016-2020, Mr. Hutchings was employed in the Circuit as the Human Resources Administrative Services Manager, reporting to the Chief of Personnel Services. Most recently, Mr. Hutchings was employed as the Director of Human Resources at the Abbey Delray/LifeSpace Communities. Immediately prior to his position at the Abbey, Mr. Hutchings

was employed with Palm Tran as a Recruitment and Compensation Lead.

Mr. Hutchings obtained his Master of Public Administration from Nova Southeastern University Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Bethune-Cookman University.

Mr. Hutchings began his new role on June 29. His office is located on the Fifth Floor of the Judge Daniel T. K. Hurley Courthouse in the Human Resources Department.

Justin Forest

Mr. Justin Forest joins the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit as Administrative Services Manager in Human Resources. In this role he is responsible for the recruitment and retention of employees, assisting with candidate interviews, and onboarding new judges, judicial assistants, and court staff.

Mr. Forest holds a Master of Science in Human Resources and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, both from Florida International University (FIU). His prior professional experience includes three years as HR Administrator III with the Broward County Public Schools and two years as an HR Assistant with FIU.



Justin Forest, Administrative Services Manager

Mr. Forest began his new role on June 13. His office is located on the Fifth Floor of the Judge Daniel T. K. Hurley Courthouse in the Human Resources Department.

New Attorney Welcome Breakfast

The Palm Beach County Bar Association's (PBCBA)
Professionalism Committee and the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit hosted the New Attorney Welcome Breakfast on Friday, April 8 at the Judge Daniel T. K. Hurley Courthouse in West Palm Beach. This event recognized all attorneys who either moved to Palm Beach County or passed the Florida Bar in 2020, 2021, or 2022. Attendees had the opportunity to meet judges and magistrates, as well as other local attorneys. Chief Judge Kelley gave



Photo credit: SDC Black Women Lawyers Association

Left to right: Judge Curley, Judge Rowe, Sia Baker Barnes, and Julia Wyda, PBCBA President

a welcome message. Attendees were able to participate in a panel discussion and take a behind - the-scenes tour of the courthouse.

Court Interpreter Consortium Exam



From left to right: Ahjia Ponders, Senior Court Analyst I (OSCA), Lisa Bell, Senior Court Operations Consultant (OSCA), Angie Afanador, Certified Spanish Interpreter (Fifteenth Judicial Circuit)

The Statewide Oral Language Performance Examination was conducted at the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit April 26-28. The exam is the last step in the certification process to become a certified interpreter. The Circuit hosted the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) employees who administered the exam. They were assisted by Angie Afandor, a Certified Spanish Interpreter with the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

For more information about becoming an interpreter, visit https://www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Court-Services/Court-Interpreting

Take Your Children to Work Day



Judge Schosberg Feuer, Judge Harper, and Judge Zuckerman with participants

On Thursday, April 28, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit participated in "Take Your Children and Grandchildren to Work Day" at the Judge Daniel T. K. Hurley Courthouse. Activities included a greeting by Chief Judge Kelley; observation of court events; a question and answer panel with judges; and observation of the K-9 unit in action.

Drug Court Month

In May, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit observed National Drug Court Month. The Circuit celebrates and recognizes the assistance our Drug Courts provide to the community. The Circuit supports three Drug Courts: Adult Drug Court, Delinquency Drug Court, and Family Drug Court. Additionally, the Riviera Civil Drug Court serves those in need of assistance with substance abuse and is funded by Riviera Beach and Palm Beach County. Several judges and magistrates of the Circuit serve as volunteer judges for the Riviera Beach Drug Court.



Hon. Charles Burton, Adult Drug Court (until July 5, 2022)



Hon. Carolyn Bell, Delinquency Drug Court



Hon. Cymonie Rowe, Family Drug Court

Family Drug Court News

Stress and substance use are on the rise. Luckily, Family Drug Court (FDC) is there to offer an avenue for eligible parents in the dependency system to achieve sobriety, and family centered services in a supportive atmosphere. The program provides additional support and services to parents struggling with substance use and helps them reunify with their children in a safe and timely manner.

Exciting things are happening in the FDC program. A brand new logo (right) was designed by Court Technology and was launched as the new face of FDC.

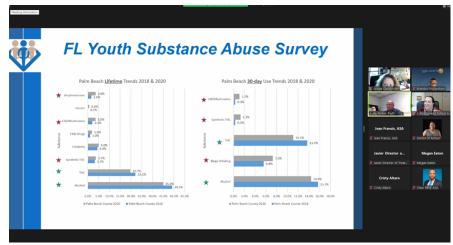
Additionally, FDC has partnered with the Center for Child and Family Futures to review, assist and enhance the program and incorporate best practices. To that end, FDC kicked off vibrant discussions among its multi-agency collaborative, culminating in a series of virtual trainings for its



operational team. Commencing on March 7th, Dr. Marc Schlosser facilitated the first training on Medication Assisted Treatment, also known as MAT. He educated the team members on the methods by which MAT can help to reprogram the brain and realign the neurotransmitters and hormones responsible for substance use addiction and dependence. Dr. Schlosser underscored the importance of participants engaging in other behavior modification therapy in conjunction with MAT in order to achieve and sustain recovery. The second event, held on March 15th, was provided by Dr. Tom Aucoin, a Clinical Toxicologist at Phamatech, Inc. - the Family Drug Court drug testing provider. He delivered an insightful training on the drug testing standards, the chain of custody process for each test and the testing confirmation procedures. Lastly, on April 4th, the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN) delivered an instructive training on the areas of substance use disorder, effective treatment, relapse prevention and long-term recovery. The SEFBHN facilitators entreated the Family Drug Court team to adopt a strength-based and trauma-informed approach in all its interactions with the participants. These trainings have already inspired some practical modifications within the program, and represent a crucial step in developing the competencies of the core team. The FDC team also participated in a two-day, interactive training on Motivational Interviewing in June.

Delinquency Drug Court News

Adolescent substance use continues to be a serious issue around the Country as well as for youth within the delinquency system. At the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit the Delinquency Drug Court (DDC) provides support and resources for youth struggling with substance use. To this end, it is important that the DDC team stays informed of resources and research related to substance use, and that they implement best practices within the program. With the assistance of statewide, problem-solving court funding, the DDC team was afforded the opportunity to participate in several trainings in 2022. The trainings happened on Zoom and addressed an array of topics including substance use trends, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and adolescent brain development. DDC extends their appreciation to Jay Flicker from the Drug Abuse Treatment Association for providing the team with fantastic training curriculum and updated substance use materials.



Screen capture from training

Additionally, the Circuit extends congratulations to the DDC Coordinator, Brandon Richardson, who received training certifications in both ACEs and Adolescent Mental Health First Aid.



Brandon Richardson, DDC Coordinator

Pre-law and Legal Interns

On Friday, June 17, former Florida Supreme Court Justice, Barbara Pariente, addressed her life on the bench during a lunch meeting with the pre-law and legal interns of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. The Circuit's pre-law internship program is headed by the Hon. Sherri Collins and the Hon. Samantha Schosberg Feuer. The legal internship program is directed by Katie Mullinax, General Counsel for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.



Interns with Former Justice Barbara Pariente (middle) and Judge Schosberg Feuer (back row, 3rd from the right)



General Counsel Mullinax (left) with Legal Interns

On Wednesday, June 10, General Counsel Mullinax led a tour of the 4th District Court of Appeal for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's Legal Interns. In addition to the tour, the interns observed oral arguments. The Hon. Martha C. Warner, Hon. Robert M. Gross and Hon. Jeffrey T. Kuntz took time out of their schedules to speak with the interns about the appellate process and appellate advocacy.

Chief Information Officer Presents on the Digital Evidence Portal



Noel Chessman, Court Chief Information Officer

On Friday, April 22, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's Chief Information Officer (CIO), Noel Chessman, presented to the Palm Beach County Bar Association. He discussed updates related to new technology in the courtrooms, including the "Digital Evidence Portal." The Digital Evidence Portal is an application designed by the judges of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit to allow for the remote uploading, viewing, ruling, and processing of electronically submitted evidence exhibits. For more information about the portal, visit our website at https://www.15thcircuit.com/court-technology/digital-evidence-fags.

Hon. Janis Brustares Keyser Retires

On April 8th, the Honorable Janis Brustares Keyser announced her intent to retire. Judge Keyser was appointed to the County bench in 2006 by former Governor Jeb Bush. In 2011, she was elevated to the Circuit bench by former Governor Rick Scott.

The Circuit appreciates Judge Keyser's years of service on the bench, her dedication to her role as a Judge, and her passion for presiding over jury trials. Judge Keyser's last day with the Circuit was June 30. The circuit judges, judicial assistants, and court staff greatly appreciate and thank her for her years of service on the bench.



Hon. Janis Brustares Keyser

Circuit Bids Farewell

On Friday, May 13, the Circuit passed on good wishes and said goodbye to Magistrate Jennifer Printz and her assistant, Kettly Fertil. Magistrate Printz was employed by the Circuit for fifteen years, starting as a staff attorney before becoming a magistrate. Most recently, she served as a General Magistrate in the Juvenile and Family Divisions.



Magistrate Jennifer Printz (left) and Kettly Fertil, her assistant



From left to right: Tammy Anton, Chief Judge Kelley, Michael Bonan

On Thursday, June 2, the Circuit bid farewell to two very valuable employees: Tammy Anton, Chief of Personnel Services, and Michael Bonan, General Counsel. Despite the tremendous loss, we wish them the best.

On Friday, June 10, the Circuit said farewell to Kathy Evans. Ms. Evans served the Circuit as the Web Design Coordinator for five years, making numerous improvements to the appearance of the website and the user's experience with it. We wish Kathy the best of luck in this next chapter of her life.



From left to right: Noel Chessman, Kathy Evans, Rich Haney

The Circuit Remembers the Hon. Mark Eissey

With great sadness, the Circuit announced that on May 21st, the Honorable Mark Eissey passed away. Judge Eissey was a native of West Palm Beach. He earned a bachelor's degree from Belmont University in Tennessee and his Juris Doctor from Nova Southeastern University. After law school, he moved back to West Palm Beach and began his law career working as a prosecutor in the State Attorney's Office. He continued in this role for 17 years. In 2005 he was appointed to the County Court by Governor Jeb Bush, where he remained until his retirement in 2022.

During his 17 years on the bench, Judge Eissey exercised compassion for those who came before him. He recognized that even though not everyone in his courtroom could go away happy, he could ensure that they were each afforded the



Hon. Mark Eissey

dignity and respect they deserved. Judge Eissey will be remembered for his love of sports and the community that he created. He will be missed by the Fifteenth Circuit Bench and the legal community.

The Circuit Remembers the Hon. Robert V. Parker



Hon. Robert V. Parker

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit announces the passing of former County Court Judge Robert V. Parker on June 13th. Judge Parker was born in Des Moines, Iowa and moved to Florida when he was 15. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida, then served two years of active duty in the U.S. Army. In 1955, he returned to UF for law school. After graduation, he practiced real estate and commercial law in Orlando before moving to West Palm Beach. He was appointed to the County Court by Governor Reuben Askew in 1977. He was re-elected five times, serving 22 years on the bench. He retired in 1999.

Judge Parker was also a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason, which is the highest ranking attainable. He enjoyed collecting

train memorabilia, taking pictures, hunting turkeys, and spending time with his family. He will be missed by all who knew him.

AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Law Library 75th Anniversary

On May 20th, the Law Library celebrated its 75th anniversary. The creation of a law library to serve a growing Palm Beach County was originally proposed by local attorney George Mehlman in 1947. From its humble origins of a few shelves in the back of the courtroom in the old Courthouse, the Law Library has grown to three locations serving an average of 475 visitors each month.



Main Law Library



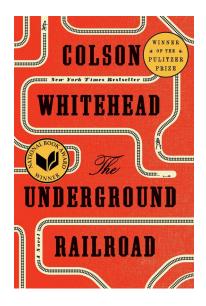
Michael E. Gersten Law Library in South County



North County Law Library

Circuit Book Club

The Circuit Book Club met on Thursday, June 30th. In honor of Juneteenth, participants read *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. The Circuit Book Club is open to all current employees of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. The meetings are typically held on ZOOM, the last Friday of every other month. If you would like to participate, please email Elizabeth Fairall, Law Library Manager, at EFairall@pbcgov.org. Our next meeting will be on Friday, August 26 when we will discuss *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng.



Cover of The Underground Railroad

New Hires

Welcome to our new employees who began their duties in April - June 2022:

- Kathleen Richardson, Criminal Court Case Manager, April 25
- Hon. Lauren Burke, County Court Judge, May 2
- Hon. James Sherman, County Court Judge, May 2
- Barbara Calafell, Court Program Specialist II, Court Interpreting, May 2
- Tanisha Shambo, Judicial Assistant to Judge Burke, May 9
- Breanne Perry, Judicial Assistant to Judge Bell, May 18
- Michael Porter, Civil Court Case Manager, May 23
- Hon. Darren Shull, Circuit Court Judge, May 31
- Elaine Burdock, Human Resources Administrative Assistant I, June 3
- Priscilla Devose, Purchasing Manager, June 6
- Justin Forest, Human Resources Manager, June 13
- Steffany Kinderman Coneo, Judicial Assistant to Judge Shull, June 13
- Donna Francis, Judicial Assistant to Judge Sherman, June 27
- William H. Hutchings, Jr., Chief of Personnel Services, June 29

Also, congratulations to the court employees who started a new position in the Circuit:

- Mirna Hernandez, Program Coordinator
- Tina Douglas, Administrative Assistant II
- Brandy Drury, Administrative Assistant II
- Peterson Pierre, Criminal Court Case Manager
- Katherine Mullinax, General Counsel
- Rafal Krzemien, Systems Administrator II
- Mordechai Spolter, Systems Administrator II
- Ramsay Caraballo, Desktop Administrator

Administrative Orders

The following AOs were updated or created April - June 2022:

- 3.607 4/1 Emergency Hearings in County Civil Matters
- 6.305 4/11 Civil Drug Court
- 12.514 4/14 International Travel by Judges and Court Staff During the Pandemic (Vacated)
- 11.101 4/28 Assignment of Judges
- 11.106 4/28 Alternate Assignments
- 2.503 4/29 Court Reporting Services
- 11.104 5/2 Seniority Listing of Judges
- 11.109 5/2 Duty Judge Roster
- 3.911 5/4 Closure of Circuit Civil Division AB
- 5.808 5/11 Rescission of No Contact Orders Entered in Closed Juvenile Cases
- 11.101 5/20 Assignment of Judges
- 11.104 5/20 Seniority Listing of Judges
- 11.106 5/20 Alternate Assignments
- 11.109 5/20 Duty Judge Roster
- 5.104 5/31 UFC Magistrates
- 11.604 5/31 Law Clerks Code of Conduct
- 5.114 5/31 Division FD General Magistrate Pilot Program
- 5.101 6/6 Assignment of Unified Family Court Cases
- 5.113 6/6 Domestic Relations Family Division "FD"
- 6.107 6/6 Mental Health Case Assignment: Baker Act, Marchman Act, Firearm Motions and Tuberculous Cases
- 5.113 6/6 Domestic Relations Family Division "FD"
- 6.101 6/6 Probate and Guardianship Divisions
- 5.101 6/6 Assignment of Unified Family Court Cases
- 2.207 6/10 Request for Reasonable Accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act
- 6.202 6/10 Formal Administration: Checklist for Closing an Estate (Vacated)
- 11.101 6/10 Assignment of Judges
- 11.104 6/10 Seniority Listing of Judges
- 11.106 6/10 Alternate Assignments
- 5.310 6/10 Supervised Visitation Program Providers
- 5.104 6/29 UFC Magistrates

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



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