



THE
15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF FLORIDA



NEWS BULLETIN OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT COURIER

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- Magistrate Ilana Marcus Sworn In
- The Resolution of Traffic Citations
- Mediation Week
- Hurricane Relief
- Hon. Paige Kilbane Appointment
- Hon. John Parnofiello Appointment
- Thanks for Giving & Annual Holiday Luncheon
- Congratulations to Hon. Schosberg - Feuer
- John L. Phillips Professionalism Award
- Hon. John S. Kastrenakes Retires
- Circuit Lunch and Learns
- The Circuit Remembers
- New Hires and Employee Changes
- Administrative Orders

Swearing in of Magistrate Ilana Marcus



L-R: Magistrate Maxine Williams, Chief Judge Glenn Kelley, Magistrate Ilana Marcus

On December 9, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit celebrated the swearing in of Magistrate Ilana Marcus by Chief Judge Glenn Kelley. Magistrate Maxine Williams presided over the event which was organized by the Magistrates. Magistrate Marcus served as an Assistant Public Defender for the previous 19 years. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Illinois Wesleyan University and her Juris Doctorate from University Miami School of Law. She is assigned to the Family Law Division and has expertise in criminal law, trial practice, mental health and Baker Acts.

The Resolution of Traffic Cases



L-R—Kathleen Richards—Hon. Sherri Collins

Kathleen Richardson, Criminal Case Manager, through research, identified approximately 400 “old” traffic cases that remained in a pending status. Cases were flagged in JVS, and the Administrative Office of the Court worked with the Clerk’s Office to schedule all cases for trial. The Honorable Sherri Collins, Administrative Judge of County Criminal Division and Criminal Division Judges, Paul Damico and Sara Alijewicz, presided over specialized traffic dockets to hear the cases. As a result, almost all the cases were resolved and over \$60,000 in fines and court costs were assessed.

Mediation Week



Chief Justice Muñiz declared the week of October 16, 2022 “Mediation Week”. Pictured above is the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit team, led by Danni Hoefling,

Hurricane Relief



On Saturday, October 28th, donations from Judges, Judicial Assistants and staff of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit were hand delivered to Fort Myers in the wake of Hurricane Ian which hit the area on September 28th. Pictured from left to right: William Hutchings, Chief of Personnel; Barbara Dawicke, Trial Court Administrator; Chief Judge Glenn Kelley; Jackson Mack, Drug Court Director.

Hon. Paige Kilbane Appointment



The Hon. Paige Kilbane was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to serve on the 5th District Court of Appeal. The Circuit wishes Judge Kilbane well but sadly lost an excellent Circuit Judge who served on the bench since 2018.

Hon. John Parnofiello Appointment

Congratulations to the Hon. John Parnofiello. The Governor elevated Judge Parnofiello from the County Court to the Circuit Court on December 2. His current assignment is presiding over Juvenile Court in Division JK.



“Thanks for Giving” & Annual Holiday Luncheon



Court Directors

The Fifteen Judicial Circuit revived two traditions this year post-pandemic. The “Thanks for Giving” dessert event and the Holiday Luncheon. On November 21, Court Directors served dessert to staff in appreciation of their service. Food donations collected were delivered to the Bill Brooks “Food for Families” food drive.

Chief Judge Glenn Kelley graciously thanked staff for their hard work at the Holiday Luncheon held December 2nd. Staff enjoyed delicious food, winter bingo, and prizes.



Chief Judge Kelley



Congratulations to Hon. Samantha Schosberg Feuer

In November 2022, the Hon. Samantha Schosberg Feuer won two prestigious awards. On Wednesday, November 2, the Palm Beach County Justice Association presented Judge Feuer with the Jurist of the Year award. On Thursday, November 3, the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) presented Judge Feuer with the ABOTA Jurist of the Year award. Congratulations to Judge Feuer on the back-to-back awards.



John L. Phillips Professionalism Award



The Susan E. Greenberg Palm Beach County Family Law Inn of Court awarded to our former magistrate, Thomas Baker, the John L. Phillips Professionalism Award in recognition of his professionalism and in leading the Inn for two consecutive years during the pandemic. Retired Judge John Phillips was there to make the presentation. The Mission of the American Inns of Court is to foster excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills.

L-R- Hon . John Phillips, Thomas Baker, Esq.

Fifteenth Circuit Shares Best Practice

The National Center for State Courts (“NCSC”) has organized the “Caribbean Anti-Crime Program”, funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, in conjunction with the U.S. Embassy in Nassau. In November, over four days, the NCSC conducted training sessions for personnel of the Judiciary of the Bahamas, which included judicial officers from the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Magistrates’ Court, registrar, court clerks, and judicial research counsel, among others. Ms. Melissa M. Sotillo, Senior Court Operations Consultant for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit was invited to participate and act as a Pro Bono Consultant for the NCSC.

The four days of training focused on key operational and technical aspects of Digital Court Reporting (“DCR”) as well as best practices and management of DCR. The intent is to promote the use of DCR to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Bahamas legal system.

The Hon. Sherri L. Collins, Administrative Judge of the County Criminal Courts, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, was a (remote) guest speaker during a special session created for the judicial officers. Judge Collins described her experience with the DCR system in her courtroom and the benefits of the system, which was followed by a question, and answer session with the attendees.

The Caribbean Anti-Crime Program is expected to continue with additional training in 2023.



L-R— Rachel Morley, NCSC International Program Associate; Emilia Rebelo, NCSC International Senior Program Associate, Melissa Sotillo, Senior Court Operations Manager, 15th Circuit.

The Hon. Judge John S. Kastrenakes Retires

On December 19th, a farewell event was held for the Hon. John S. Kastrenakes. Judges, family, court staff and friends, celebrated his thirteen years on the bench in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Judge Kastrenakes was a former U.S. Assistant Attorney and was the Circuit's criminal law expert. He also was a mentor to the young attorneys who appeared before him. His retirement leaves a gaping hole in our Circuit. The staff of the Fifteenth Circuit wish the Judge an enjoyable retirement.



Judge Kastrenakes surrounded by his grandchildren.



Judge Kastrenakes makes final comments as Chief Judge Kelley watches.

Employee Spotlight

Alisia Gibbs, Magistrate Assistant



Alisia Gibbs, Magistrate Assistant to Magistrate Maxine Williams, is invaluable. “Alisia is an extraordinary asset to the Circuit and the Magistrate’s office. It is no surprise that she was recently commended by a law firm for her exceptional professionalism and competence.” In addition to her regular duties, during 2022, Ms. Gibbs assisted in covering several vacant magistrate assistant positions and was commended for her exceptional assistance to the Administrative Magistrate.

Connie Thomas, OPS Family Court Case



In the midst of the pandemic and while in dire need of case management staff, Connie Thomas re-joined the Circuit in July 2020. Connie, a former family case manager, retired in 2018. She currently assists Judges and Magistrates in the review of post-judgment pleadings in all family divisions and lends a hand in other assignments when needed. “*I have never heard a ‘No’ or ‘I can’t’ from Connie in the past 13 years I have worked with her.*” -Tara Kranz, Director of Family Case Management.

Lunch & Learns

The Human Resources department hosted various lunch and learns for its employees this last quarter. Pictured is Sam Spaulding, Financial Advisor for Capital Insurance, who presented at two Lunch & Learns for both Judges and Circuit employees. During his seminar, he provided an overview of the different benefits available to employees.

Other lunch and learn offerings included:

- How to Get Through the Holidays
- How to Identify Trauma in Children



Paulina Pasquarelli Presents to Criminal Justice Academy



Paulina Pasquarelli, Mental Health Case Manager, gave a presentation on the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit and State Courts to participants of the Criminal Justice Commission's 44th Civilian Criminal Justice Academy. As a graduate of the 37th class, it was a special opportunity for her to return as a presenter to inform Palm Beach County residents about their court system. Topics included Circuit Court vs. County Court jurisdiction and divisions, funding sources, specialty courts, and filing statistics followed by a robust Q&A session.

THE CIRCUIT REMEMBERS

The Hon. Howard Harrison, Jr.



On December 14, 2022, the Hon. Howard Harrison, Jr. passed, at the age of 86. Judge Harrison served in the Fifteenth Circuit, first, as a County Court Judge (elected in 1968), and then as a Senior Judge in the Circuit for many years following his retirement. Prior to becoming a Judge, he served in the U.S. military and was stationed in Spain and Germany. After his military service, he graduated from the University of Maryland and then New York University Law School. Judge Harrison was hired as the First Assistant County Solicitor for Palm Beach County before taking the Bench.

Judge Harrison is fondly remembered by the Judges and Court staff of the Circuit. He was kind, funny, and humble. The Circuit extends its heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

Welcome New Hires

November

Anna Branney, Program Coordinator

Joey Hyppolite, Digital Court Reporter

Julio Marques Cancine, Civil Court Case Manager OPS

Sterling Mart, Trial Court Staff Attorney OPS

Lindsey Thomas, Civil Court Case Manager OPS

Dominique Jones, Judicial Assistant OPS

December

Lheonii Shaw, Administrative Assistant II, HR OPS

The Hon. Stephanie Tew, County Judge

Employees on the Move

Congratulations to the court employees who started a new position in the Circuit

October

Britt McCarthy, Judicial Assistant to Judge Suskauer

December

David Goodman, Deputy Chief Information Officer

Employee Retirements

December 2022

Jessica Wolfkill, Judicial Assistant to Judge Shepherd

The Hon. John Kastrenakes, Circuit Judge

Administrative Orders

The following AOs were updated or created October - December 2022

- 12-12-2022 6.106 [Establishment of Main Courthouse Probate/Guardianship Divisions "IC" and "ID" and Associating Domestic Relations Divisions \(Vacated\)](#)
- 12-06-2022 4.202 [Schedule of Bonds](#)
- 12-01-2022 3.109 [Unknown Party in Possession in Actions for Possession](#)
- 11-22-2022 10.403 [Traffic Infraction Motions and Correspondence](#)
- 11-08-2022 12.705 [TOLLING ORDER RE: MARCHMAN ACT AND BAKER ACT PROCEEDINGS DUE TO TROPICAL STORM/ HURRICANE NICOLE](#)
- 10-21-2022 11.109 (2023) [Duty Judge Roster](#)
- 10-21-2022 5.310 [Supervised Visitation Program Providers](#)
- 10-21-2022 5.509 [Batterer's Intervention Programs](#)
- 10-12-2022 6.306 [Guardianship Matters to be Audited by Clerk & Comptroller](#)
- 10-11-2022 2.312 [Electronic Filing of Documents](#)

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



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