

—THE—
15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
—OF FLORIDA—

CIRCUIT COURIER

JANUARY - MARCH 2026

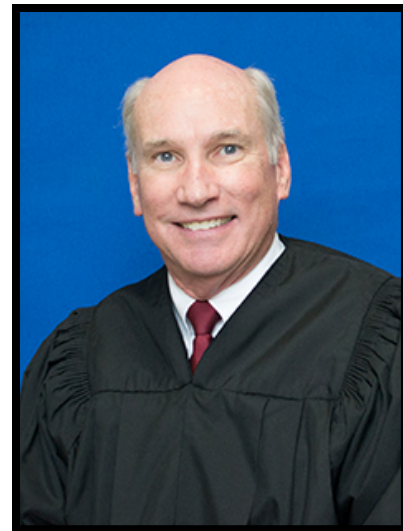
Hon. James Martz Retires



After 20 years on the bench, the Honorable James Martz retired from the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Appointed in 2006 to the County Court bench by Governor Jeb Bush, Judge Martz would go on to serve in the Criminal and Civil divisions before being elevated to the Circuit Court bench in 2010 by Governor Charlie Crist. As a Circuit Judge, he served in the juvenile, civil, and family divisions.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Martz served as an Assistant State Attorney with the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office as well as a Law Enforcement Officer in New York and California.

Hon. Jeffrey Gillen Retires



The Honorable Jeffrey Gillen retired from the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in February 2026 after 13 years on the bench. Judge Gillen was appointed to the Circuit Court bench in 2012 by Governor Rick Scott, where he served for the entirety of his judicial career. During his term, Judge Gillen presided over the criminal, civil, family, probate, mental health, guardianship and family divisions.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Gillen was employed with the Florida Department of Children and Families for 15 years. Other employment includes his role as a Partner in a private law firm and In-house Counsel with General Foods Corporation.



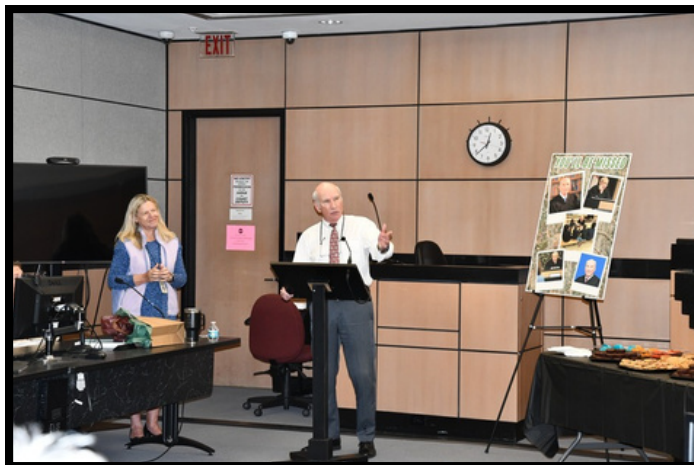
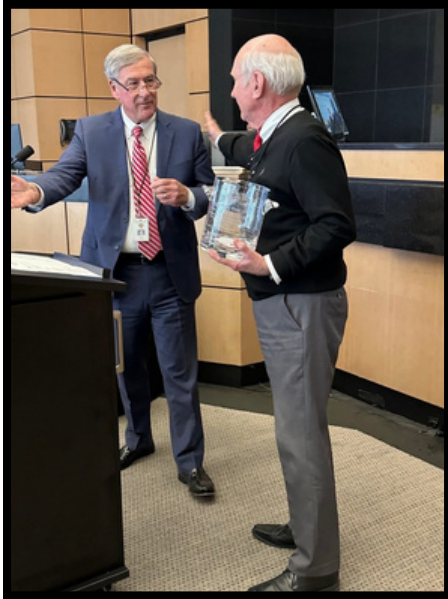
15THCIRCUIT.COM



The Circuit says Farewell to the Hon. Jeffrey Gillen

On January 28 during a Full Court Meeting, Chief Judge Glenn Kelley provided remarks and presented Judge Gillen with a gift from the Circuit to honor his retirement after 13 years of service on the bench. Judge Gillen addressed his fellow judiciary with a reflection of his time with the Circuit as well as a message to never forget their level of responsibility as judges and the people they represent. He said he looks forward to returning to the Circuit as a Senior Judge.

On February 11, the Juvenile Division held a Farewell event to honor Judge Gillen for his most recent work as Juvenile Judge and his longtime service with the Florida Department of Children and Families prior to his judicial appointment. The event included remarks and presentations from Juvenile Administrative Judge Kathleen Kroll, Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator Brandon Richardson, and reflections from Judge Gillen.



Magistrate Diane Kirigin Retires

On January 26 during a retirement celebration, Magistrate Diane Kirigin was honored for her 30 years of service and dedication as Magistrate with the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Many judges, fellow magistrates, court administration staff, colleagues, family and friends packed the north end of the Main Courthouse's cafeteria to pay tribute to her. The celebration opened with welcome remarks from Magistrate Ilana Marcus. Chief Judge Glenn Kelley and Trial Court Administrator Barbara Dawicke provided brief reflections of Magistrate Kirigin and also presented her with a special retirement gift.

A host of speakers including Administrative Magistrate Maxine Williams, Judge Karen Miller, Magistrate Ilana Marcus and Keynote Speaker Judge James Martz shared their memories of working with Magistrate Kirigin, who also reflected on her journey with the Circuit. The Circuit is grateful for Magistrate Kirigin's commitment to the citizens of the Circuit and wish her the best in retirement.



Chief Judge Kelley and Barbara Dawicke, Trial Court Administrator, present Magistrate Kirigin with a special gift



Magistrate Diane Kirigin

Magistrate Swearing-In Ceremony

On Friday, January 16, the Circuit held an official swearing-in ceremony for the Circuit's newest magistrates.

Joined by many family members, friends, colleagues, judges, and court administration staff, Magistrates Janie Lowe Crittenden, Christine Bruno and Sheena Benjamin-Wise were acknowledged and honored during an afternoon program to commemorate their hiring as magistrates.

During the ceremony, welcome remarks and tributes were provided by Administrative Magistrate Maxine Williams, the Oath of Office was administered by Chief Judge Glenn Kelley and each honoree took time to reflect on their journey and their supporters. The afternoon concluded with a closing reception for all attendees.



Magistrate Janie Lowe Crittenden with Chief Judge Kelley



Magistrate Christine Bruno with Chief Judge Kelley



Magistrate Sheena Benjamin-Wise with Chief Judge Kelley

Hon. Daliah Weiss and Magistrate Maxine Williams Receive Recognition at 2026 Bench Bar Conference



Congratulations to the Honorable Daliah Weiss who received the Judge Meenu T. Sasser Mentorship Award.

The award recognizes a PBCBA attorney or judge who has demonstrated or promoted mentoring in Palm Beach County.

Judge Weiss was appointed to the County Court bench in 2012 and then elevated to the Circuit Bench in 2016. Judge Weiss previously served as the Administrative Judge of the Felony Division for four years. She is currently assigned to Family Division FJ in North County.



Congratulations to Administrative Magistrate Maxine Williams who received the Judge Edward Rodgers Champion of Freedom Award. The award is given to a member or organization that promotes and supports diversity and inclusion initiatives within the legal community.

Magistrate Williams was appointed as Magistrate in 2006 and has served in the family, juvenile and mental health divisions.

Magistrate Maxine Williams Receives Judicial Excellence Award



Congratulations to Administrative Magistrate Maxine Williams who received the 2026 Judicial Excellence Award from the F. Malcolm Cunningham Sr. Bar Association during their annual Holland Celebration Gala on February 28.

Pictured: Magistrates Janie Lowe Crittenden, Maxine Williams and Sheena Benjamin-Wise

Hon. Samantha Schosberg Feuer Performs Installation of Paralegal Organization Officers

On January 21, the Honorable Samantha Schosberg Feuer performed the installation of the new officers of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc.



Judges and Magistrates Attend Trauma Training



On February 3, the Circuit hosted a Trauma Training workshop for judges and magistrates. The training, led by Jennifer Diaz, Victim Services Program Manager of Palm Beach County, identified common trauma behaviors and provided practical strategies on navigating proceedings when those behaviors are present.

2026 R. Fred Lewis Florida High School Mock Trial Competition

On February 5, a record number of high school teams and volunteers filled the 10th floor of the main courthouse for the annual R. Fred Lewis Florida High School Mock Trial Competition. The event, led by the Honorable Sherri Collins, in partnership with attorneys Andrew Kwan and John Webber, included several rounds of fierce arguments, with Judges Stephanie Tew, Reid Scott II, Frank Castor, Katherine Mullinax, Santo DiGangi and Michael Barnett presiding over the trials.

Congratulations to American Heritage - Delray Beach who placed first in the competition and represented Palm Beach County in the statewide competition. The Circuit would also like to extend a special thank you to Judges Scott Suskauer, Gregory Keyser, Caryn Siperstein, Reid Scott II, John Parnofiello, Howard Coates, Jr. and Scott Kerner for lending their courtrooms for the event.



Judges Charles Burton and Samantha Schosberg Feuer Serve on Probate Symposium Panel Event



On February 6, the Honorable Charles Burton and the Honorable Samantha Schosberg Feuer sat on a tri-county judicial panel for the second annual South County Courthouse Probate Symposium hosted by the South Palm Beach County Bar Association.

2026 Pro Bono Awards and Ice Cream Social

On February 12, the 15th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee held its annual Pro Bono Awards Ceremony and Ice Cream Social, where honors and awards were given to individual attorneys as well as law firms and organizations to celebrate and acknowledge their extraordinary efforts in providing pro bono legal services through the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.

The event included remarks from Committee Chair and current Juvenile Judge Lisa Small, special guest Florida Supreme Court Justice Jorge Labarga and Chief Judge Glenn Kelley. Grasford Smith with The Florida Bar Board of Governors reflected on how pro bono work provides purpose and a sense of fulfillment, while giving a voice to the voiceless. Dr. Diana Lewis shared her personal experience with the Legal Aid Society and their work to help her family with legacy planning; now, she has become a partner with the Legal Aid Society to help other families do the same.

Finally, honorees were presented with their awards and pins. For the 2025 calendar year, local attorneys provided nearly 4,000 pro bono hours. The event ended with an ice cream social and opportunities to network. Congratulations to all of the award and pin recipients.



Speaker Pictured: Judge Lisa Small



Speaker Pictured: Florida Supreme Court Justice Jorge Labarga



Speaker Pictured: Chief Judge Glenn Kelley



Speaker Pictured: Grasford Smith, Board of Governors for the Florida Bar



Speaker Pictured: Dr. Diana Lewis



Pictured: Bob Bertisch, Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County (left) and Pin and Award Honorees

Judges Attend UF Law Alumni Reception

On February 17, several judges from the Fifteenth Circuit attended the University of Florida Law Alumni Reception event, which was hosted in Downtown West Palm Beach.



Judges pictured: (2nd from left) - Judges Santo DiGangi, Sherri Collins, Samantha Schosberg Feuer and Chief Judge Glenn Kelley

Hon. James Nutt and Hon. Santo DiGangi Participate in YLS Side Bar Event

On February 20, Judges James Nutt and Santo DiGangi sat on a panel for the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section Side Bar Series: A Deep Dive into Closing Arguments event. Attendees listened to mock closing statements and discussed goals and best practices for defense and prosecution teams.



Pictured: Attorney Adriana Lopez, Judges Santo DiGangi and James Nutt and Attorney Jeffrey Martz

Judges Participate in CourtCounsel Event



On February 20, Judges Jaimie Goodman, Caryn Siperstein, Danielle Sherriff and Lisa Small sat on a panel for the monthly CourtCounsel event hosted by the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Judicial Relations Committee.

Providing an open forum for attendees to ask questions, the judges provided information on various topics including their process in handling cases on their Uniformed Motion Calendar and case management conferences.

Hon. Carolyn Bell and Hon. Santo DiGangi Participate in AI Workshop



On February 25, Judges Carolyn Bell and Santo DiGangi participated in the Palm Beach County Bar Association's panel event "Best Practices for Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Your Cases and Law Practice". The panel discussion included the various ways AI impacts the legal community and how to effectively manage its use.

Judges Participate in Criminal Justice Commission Planning Meeting

On February 23, 2026, judges and court administration staff attended the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission Annual Planning Meeting held at Mounts Botanical Garden.

During the event, Chief Judge Glenn Kelley provided brief remarks, Juvenile Administrative Judge Kathleen Kroll served as a panelist during the “*Challenges & Opportunities in PBC Juvenile Justice*” session and County Criminal Administrative Judge Ashley Zuckerman, then-Circuit Criminal Administrative Judge Daliah Weiss and County Criminal Judge April Bristow served as panelists during the “*Challenges & Opportunities within the PBC Court System*” session.



Pictured (l to r): Attorney Michelle Suskauer, Judge Ashley Zuckerman, Judge Daliah Weiss and Judge April Bristow

Hon. Lauren Burke Welcomes Students to Courtroom



On February 25, the Honorable Lauren Burke welcomed a group of 4th grade students from St. Ann Catholic School to her courtroom for a fun and educational experience.

The students learned of Judge Burke’s career path, the process of becoming a judge and were able to share what they have learned from a recent read of the book “Tangerine.” The students also had a special visit from K9 Arthos, where they had an opportunity to get up close and personal.

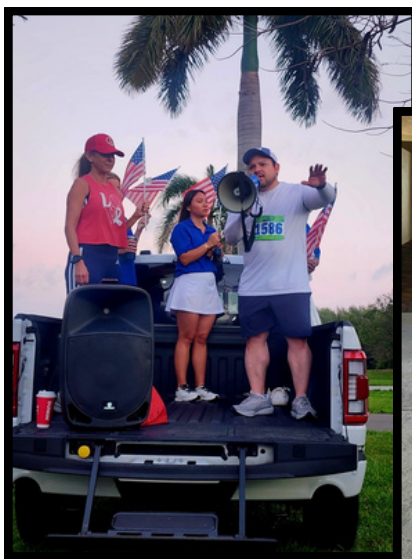
Hon. Ori Silver Welcomes Students to Courtroom

On February 26, the Honorable Ori Silver welcomed students from Zucker Jewish Academy to her courtroom at the South County Courthouse. During their visit, the students learned about Judge Silver's career journey and her work at the Circuit. The students also had the opportunity to try their hand at banging the gavel.



Hon. Luis Delgado Serves as Honorary Chair

On March 8, the Honorable Luis Delgado served as the 2026 Honorary Chair for the South Palm Beach County Bar Association's Run for the Brave event. The 5K benefits the Palm Beach County Legal Aid Society's Veteran Advocacy Project.



Hon. Samantha Schosberg Feuer Presides Over Youth Court

On March 10, the Honorable Samantha Schosberg Feuer presided over Youth Court which took place at the Gun Club courthouse. The monthly program provides Palm Beach County students with the opportunity to gain first-hand legal experience, serving as attorneys and jurors for juvenile hearings.



Judges & Magistrates Participate in Reading & Robes Program

On March 13, Judges Samantha Schosberg Feuer, Lauren Burke, Reid Scott II, Ori Silver, April Bristow, Daliah Weiss and Magistrate Ilana Marcus spent the morning with students at Morikami Park Elementary for the Reading and Robes program, reading “Turning Pages”, a book by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. The Reading and Robes program is organized by the Palm Beach County Bar Association’s Judicial Relations and Lawyers for Literacy Committees.



Judge Samantha Schosberg Feuer with students



Judge Lauren Burke with students



Judge Ori Silver with students



Judge Reid Scott II with students



Judge Daliah Weiss with students



Judge April Bristow with students



Magistrate Ilana Marcus with students

President’s Day Professional Development Workshops

On February 16, 2026, the Circuit hosted a series of professional development workshops for judicial assistants and court administration staff at the main courthouse, led by various Court Directors and staff members.



Melissa Sotillo, Director of Administrative Services, met with her Court Reporting staff to discuss important procedural and administrative updates.



Joi Lasnick, Human Resources Analyst II, led the workshop “*ARS State Timesheets Made Easy.*” This workshop provided a refresher of the State timesheet system on topics including work and leave hours, offsetting leave and Leave Without Pay.



Rhoda Jones, Administrative Service Manager - Finance, led the workshop “*Cut the Confusion of STMS.*” This workshop provided a clear overview of how to process staff travel reimbursements and travel authorization in STMS and how to avoid common mistakes.



Mary Quinlan, Chief Deputy Court Administrator and Michelle Cruz, Director of Case Management led the workshop “*Effective Communication: Connect for Success.*” This workshop provided practical tools for active listening, choosing the right communication method, and communicating clearly.

Around the Circuit – News from Court Administration Staff

Continued: President’s Day Professional Development Workshops



Barbara Dawicke, Trial Court Administrator, led the workshop *“Let’s Talk Money: What is the Budget & Pay Memo?”* This workshop provided a brief overview of the Chief Justice’s Budget and Pay Memo, including an explanation of the policies it defines.



Stefanie Thomas, Budget Director led the workshop *“Financial Literacy: Taking Control of Your Finances.”* This workshop was an introductory course about banking, saving, budgeting, credit, debt and online tools to establish and achieve your financial goals.

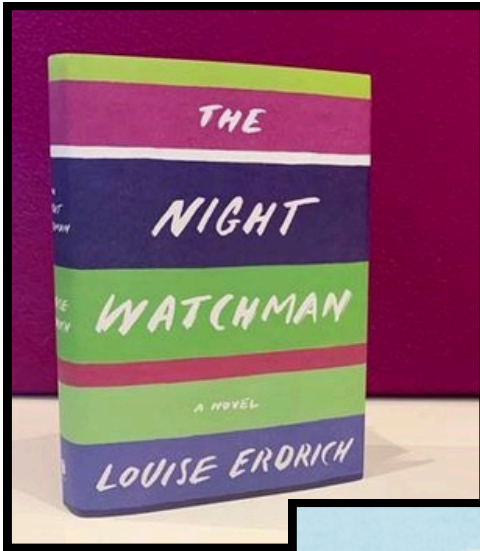


Justin Forest, Human Resources Manager led the workshop *“Interviews & Resumes: Tips for Success.”* This workshop provided tips on how to present as the best candidate when pursuing a career opportunity.



Sharelle McCoy, Software Training Specialist led the workshop *“JVS 2.0: What You Need & Should Know.”* This workshop explored the latest JVS updates, best practices and provided answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Circuit Book Club Returns



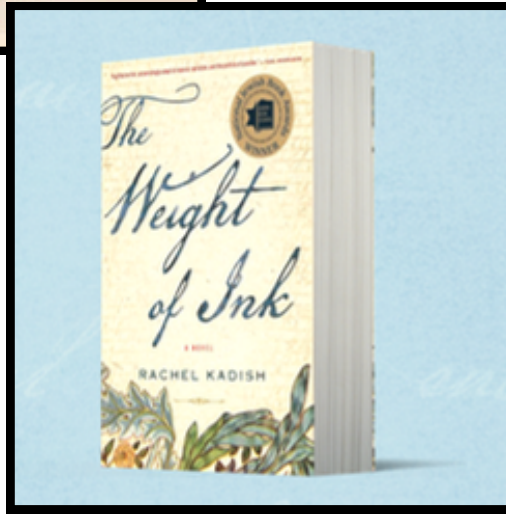
After a brief break, the Book Club is back in session.

The first selection, read in November and December 2025, was *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich a Pulitzer-prize winning novel about opposing the 1953 Indian termination bill.

The second selection, read in February 2026, was *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish, a story of 2 women, a 17th century Jewish scribe in London and a modern historian.

Book club members met in January and February 2026, providing a lively discussion on themes, character development and more.

If you're interested in joining the Book Club, please reach out to Mirna Winn or Melissa Sotillo. The group votes each month to select its next read and meeting are held via Zoom to discuss each book.



Court Technology Hosts Training for Judicial & Magistrate Assistants

On February 25, 2026, Sharelle McCoy led a training for the Circuit's judicial and magistrate assistants called "Excel with IT." The lunch and learn training which covered navigating the application, basic and intermediate functionality and best practices for JA and MA-related tasks.



2026 Bench Bar Conference Recap

The 2026 Bench Bar conference took place on March 6 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Many of our judges, magistrates, assistants and court administration staff participated on panels focused on technology, AI and the evolution of law as a part of this year's theme "The Next Play: Navigating the Future of Law."

The event included a luncheon which began with an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Judge G. Joseph Curley. Among the awardees was Judge Daliah Weiss receiving the Judge Meenu Sasser Mentorship Award and Magistrate Maxine Williams, receiving the Judge Edward Rodgers Champion of Freedom Award.

Chief Judge Glenn Kelley provided updates on the Circuit during his annual "State of the Courts" address. The members of the Circuit are always proud to lend their time and expertise to this event, which provides those in the legal profession a chance to network and learn new methodologies and trends.



Chief Judge Glenn Kelley provides updates during his "State of the Courts" address



Pictured (l to r): Judicial Assistants Nicholas Smith, Mary Beardsley, Isabel Pereira, Dani Arcos and Lucille Kilgallon



Pictured (l to r): Judge Michael Barnett, Judge Luis Delgado and Conference Co-Chair Denise Matumba



Pictured: Christina Chappa, Systems Administrator I with the Court Technology showcase



Pictured: Judges James Nutt & Karen Miller



Pictured: Judge Cheryl Caracuzzo (2nd from the left) and Judge Rosemarie Scher (center) serve as panelists during a Family Law session

News from the Juvenile Division

Family Treatment Court:

Family Treatment Court continues to demonstrate meaningful outcomes for families, as seen in the success stories of two dedicated mothers, Melissa and Kah’Meese. Both women entered the program committed to overcoming substance use challenges and creating safer, healthier futures for their children. During their time in Family Treatment Court, each gave birth to a newborn who was not exposed to substances, an outcome that reflects significant progress in recovery and prenatal care. These healthy births are important milestones, highlighting both maternal resilience and the effectiveness of a family-centered, treatment-focused approach.

Melissa and Kah’Meese each went on to successfully graduate from the program, achieving sobriety, stability, and reunification with their families. Their journeys serve as powerful reminders that with the right support, accountability, and resources, lasting change is possible for both parents and their children.



Family Treatment Graduate Melissa and Dr. Rachel Lively, Family Treatment Court Coordinator



Judge Kirk Volker with graduate Kah’Meese

Truancy Docket:

The Juvenile Division’s Truancy Docket continues strengthening its efforts by focusing on practical, family-centered solutions that support student success. Recent initiatives include the development of a clear, easy-to-understand parent flyer, “Tips to Help Your Child Succeed in School,” designed to help families build strong daily routines at home. The flyer provides guidance on key areas such as consistent sleep schedules, homework routines, school attendance, and respectful behavior, all written at an accessible level for parents.

In addition, the Court has emphasized shared accountability by encouraging active communication between families, schools, and court staff through the implementation of a “To Do” List that is sent to parents and school personnel at the end of each docket. These efforts reflect a broader commitment to early intervention and prevention, helping families address barriers before they escalate. Through these enhancements, the Truancy Docket continues to promote positive outcomes for students and families across the circuit.

Currently, there are 26 active cases on the truancy docket.

Continued: News from the Juvenile Division

Caring Canines:

Caring Canines is an established, volunteer-based therapy dog program serving the Juvenile Division and providing trained therapy dogs to offer comfort and emotional support during court-related interactions. Coordinated by Gabriella DeSabato, the program is supported by 14 dedicated volunteers and 15 therapy dogs. The handlers and their furry friends work together to reduce stress and anxiety among youth, families, and court partners. By fostering a calm, safe, and supportive environment, the program encourages participation, promotes emotional regulation, and strengthens trauma-informed court practices. Recently, four new volunteers joined Caring Canines, further expanding the program's ability to serve the Juvenile Division.

On March 8th, two volunteers joined Gabriella DeSabato, Juvenile Court Case Manager and Cristy Altaro, Juvenile Court Director at the Story Book Village community event, supporting youth involved with the child welfare system. It was heartwarming to see children and families spending time with the therapy dogs, reinforcing the program's role in creating positive, comforting experiences for those in vulnerable situations.



Pictured (l to r): Gabriella DeSabato, Juvenile Court Case Manager and Cristy Altaro, Juvenile Court Director



Pictured: Caring Canines volunteer and children



Pictured: Caring Canines volunteer and child

Continued: News from the Juvenile Division

Juvenile Education Clinics:

The Juvenile Division successfully hosted its first Juvenile Education Clinic of the year on Thursday, March 19th from 2:00–4:00 PM. The course, titled “Know Your Record,” focused on equipping youth with essential knowledge about their involvement in the juvenile justice system and how it may impact their future. A total of 13 youth attended the session and earned 65 hours of community service. The clinic was facilitated by Brandon Richardson, Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator, and Gabriella DeSabato, Juvenile Delinquency Court Case Manager, who provided engaging instruction and practical insight throughout the session.

During the clinic, youth learned how the juvenile justice system operates while gaining guidance on how to discuss their records when applying for jobs, college, or the military. The session also clarified the important differences between record expungement and record sealing, helping youth better understand their legal options. The session emphasized empowerment through knowledge, helping youth understand their rights, responsibilities, and future opportunities. The Juvenile Division looks forward to hosting additional sessions throughout the year, offering meaningful resources that promote education for court-involved youth.

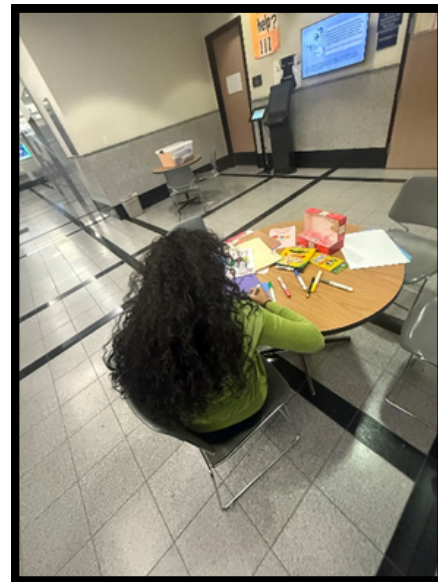
Kids Kards:

In November 2025, Juvenile Court Operations launched Kids Kards, a new program designed to help youth earn community service hours while giving back in a meaningful way. Through this initiative, youth create handmade greeting cards for veterans and residents living in assisted living facilities. These cards range from messages thanking veterans for their service and bravery to thoughtful notes letting assisted living residents know they are remembered and appreciated. Each card serves as a small but impactful way to brighten someone’s day.

Since the program’s launch, Kids Kards has already made a positive impact. As of March 2026, 10 youth have participated, creating 321 cards and earning 107 community service hours. During the Spring Break event, one particularly dedicated youth attended on three separate days and created 132 cards, earning 44 hours of community service.

Special Kids Kards events were hosted during school breaks, including a Holiday Kids Kards event in December 2025 and a Spring Break event in March 2026. These events provided a structured and engaging environment where youth focused on creativity, connected with others, and contributed to the community in a positive way.

The program is available at the South County and Main Courthouse locations. More than just service hours, Kids Kards encourages creativity, empathy, and meaningful community connection. For questions, contact Gabby DeSabato.



Youth completing cards



Completed Kids Kards

Juvenile Nursing & Family Resource Room Grand Opening

On March 23, the Juvenile Division, in partnership with the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, held a grand opening for the new nursing area and family resource room located on the Juvenile wing of the main courthouse. The resource room was made possible through a grant by the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. Girl Scout Troop 20183 assisted with the design and furnishing of the room.



Pictured (l to r): Members of Girl Scout Troop 20183 with Judge Kathleen Kroll and Cristy Altaro, Juvenile Court Director



Court Administration Staff Attend NACM Mid-Year Conference



Pictured: Tara Kranz, Family Court Manager; Melissa Sotillo, Director of Administrative Services; Rhoda Jones, Administrative Services Manager; Wendy Parent, Civil Operations Manager; and Maxine Williams, Administrative Magistrate

Several Court Directors and Court staff attended the National Association for Court Management’s Mid-Year Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico March 15-17.

With a theme of “America 250: Preserving the Rule of Law and Judicial Independence,” the conference offered various “Fireside Chats,” plenary and breakout sessions on obstacles that courts face while preserving fundamental ideals of the judicial system and the rule of law, ways to maintain court integrity and enhancing court trust.

Around the Circuit – News from Court Administration Staff

Chief Deputy Court Administrator Serves as Panelist

Mary Quinlan, Chief Deputy Court Administrator, served as a panelist for a documentary screening event hosted by the Center for Child Counseling, in partnership with the LaFrance Project, at the FAU Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute on March 25.

The event featured a screening of the documentary “Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope” which explores the science of Adverse Childhood Experiences and how toxic stress can impact the trajectory of children’s lives.



Pictured (top right): Anna Branney, Early Childhood Coordinator, Philanthropist Kathy Leone and Mary Quinlan, Chief Deputy Court Administrator



Pictured (2nd from the right): Mary Quinlan, Chief Deputy Court Administrator participates in post-screening panel

Main Courthouse Tours

Women of Tomorrow, Glades Central High School:

On January 16, 2026, students from the Glades Central High Women of Tomorrow group, visited the main courthouse. During their visit, they were able to observe the courtrooms of Judges Sara Willis and Daliah Weiss, tour the Self-Service Center, Law Library and Jury Office and speak with female PBSO Officers.





Women of Tomorrow, Seminole Ridge High School:
On January 21, 2026, students from the Seminole Ridge High Women of Tomorrow group paid a visit to the main courthouse. During their visit, they were able to observe the courtrooms of Judges Sara Willis and Daliah Weiss, tour the Self-Service Center, Law Library and Jury Office and speak with female PBSO Officers.

Palm Beach State College, Criminal Justice Institute:
On February 5, 2026, students from the Criminal Justice Institute at Palm Beach State College paid a visit to the main courthouse. During their visit, they were able to observe the courtrooms of Judges Jaimie Goodman and Daliah Weiss, tour a holding cell and have a discussion session with PBSO Officers.





Women of Tomorrow, Santaluces High School:
On February 25, 2026, students from the Santaluces High Women of Tomorrow group paid a visit to the main courthouse. During their visit, they were able to observe the courtrooms of Judges April Bristow and Caryn Siperstein, tour the Law Library and Evidence Room at the Clerk's Office

Women of Tomorrow, Seagull Alternative High School:
On March 3, 2026, students from the Seagull Alternative High Women of Tomorrow group paid a visit to the main courthouse. During their visit, they were able to observe the courtrooms of Judge Katherine Mullinax, have a Q&A session with Judge Sara Willis and tour the Jury Room.



Health & Wellness Committee Recaps

February 27, 2026: Therapy Dog Visit

On Friday, February 27, therapy dogs paid a visit to the main courthouse and provided cheer to Circuit and Clerk employees. These visits are just one of the many offerings from the Circuit's Health and Wellness Committee, which aims to provide activities and informative resources to employees that encourage wellness and positive mental health.



Judge Lisa Small with the therapy dogs



Judge Daliah Weiss with the therapy dogs



March 23, 2026: Step Challenge Raffle Drawing

On March 23, 2026, a raffle drawing for the February Step Challenge participants took place. Alexi Abril, Civil Court Case Manager and Brianna Davino, Lead Scopist, both took home a few prizes including a 15th Circuit shirt and a Health and Wellness-branded canteen.

A total of 15 judges and members of the court administration staff participated in the February Step Challenge.



Lunch & Learns

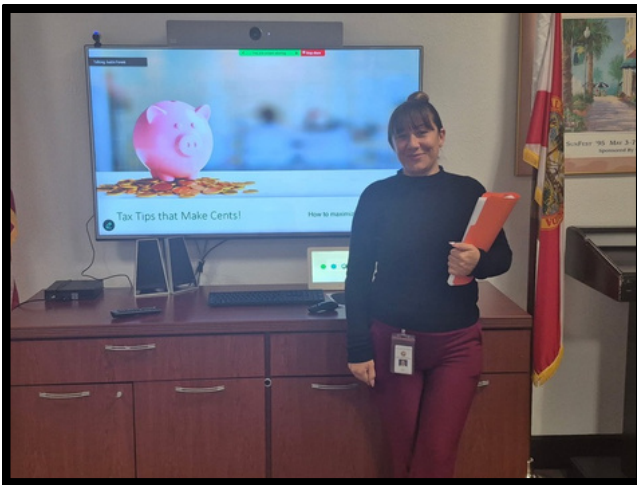
February 23, 2026: Eat Right Live Bright

On February 23, JAs and members of the court administration staff held a group discussion on healthy workplace habits, including managing hunger and maintaining lasting energy throughout the work day.



March 23, 2026: Tax Tips That Make Cents

On March 23, 2026, Kira Mendez, Payroll Associate and Certified Tax Specialist, provided an informative session on what employees should know before filing their 2025 returns.



Court Administration Staff Participate in True Colors Training

On January 9, 2026, the Circuit hosted a True Colors Training, which was a pilot project led by expert facilitator Nicole Gasparri, Chief Administrative Officer with Clerk's Office.

This training offered a deep dive into professional development through a specialized personality assessment designed to help every team member thrive. By exploring individual communication styles, core strengths, and work preferences, participants gained the tools to navigate diverse work styles and foster a more harmonious office environment. The session focused on key outcomes including conflict reduction, enhanced meeting synergy, and strengthened collaboration across all departmental projects.

The feedback was positive, with attendees praising the session for being enjoyable and insightful. We look forward to hosting more trainings in the near future.



New Hires | Employees On the Move | Retirements

Welcome to the Circuit's newest Magistrate and employees:

January 2026

Chantae Leslie, Juvenile Court Case Manager;
Shantel Johnson, General Magistrate Assistant;
Abigail Conover, Digital Court Reporter;
Wendy Parent, Senior Court Operations Consultant

February 2026

Jorge Hernandez-Tellez, Trial Court Staff Attorney;
Allison Kapner, Magistrate;
Sharon Bodet, Law Library Associate II

March 2026

Maria Landers, Juvenile Court Case Manager;
Ambar Zaiek, Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officer Assistant;
Karen White, Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officer Assistant;
Alivia Rohn, Digital Court Reporter;
Sena Uzmezler, Deputy Chief Information Officer;
Skylar Trayner, Trial Court Staff Attorney;
Ayoub Aftiss, Computer Specialist II;
Kenneth Rissley, Digital Court Reporter;
Steven Molos, Digital Court Reporter

Employees on the Move/Position Reclassified

February 2026

April Boray, Circuit/Family Mediator

March 2026

Joel Figueras, Court Operations Manager

Judges and Employees that retired during this quarter:

January 2026

Lourdes Gerstenberger, Law Library Associate II
Diane Kirigin, Magistrate

February 2026

James Martz, Circuit Judge – 2-16-26
Jeffrey Dana Gillen, Circuit Judge – 2-23-26

Administrative Orders

The following AOs were updated or entered January - March 2026 (most recent to oldest):

3/27/2026	2.207	Request for Reasonable	
3/23/2026	4.913	Forfeiture and Disposal of Seized	
2/20/2026	11.106	Alternate Assignments	
2/20/2026	11.104	Seniority Listing Of Judges	
2/20/2026	11.101	Assignment of Judges	
2/10/2026	5.502	Service of Domestic, Repeat,	
2/6/2026	11.203	Appointment of Magistrates	
2/6/2026	5.104	UFC Magistrates	
2/5/2026	12.301	Order Temporarily Assigning the Honorable Sherri Collins as an Acting Circuit Judge	
1/30/2026	12.016	Vacating and Setting Aside Local	
1/30/2026	11.109-2026	Duty Judge Roster 2026	
1/26/2026	4.407	Distribution of Unclaimed	(Vacated)
1/9/2026	6.312	Risk Protection Orders	
1/5/2026	10.41	Plea of Guilty/No Contest in Civil	
1/5/2026	10.403	Traffic Infraction Motions and	



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Glenn Kelley, Chief Judge
Barbara Dawicke, Trial Court Administrator
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