

# Circuit Courier

July-September 2017

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Photo: Deputy LaFlamme

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## SENIOR JUDGE ELI BREGER RETIRES

The Honorable Eli Breger retired September 15, 2017, after sixty-eight years of dedicated service to the Southeast Florida legal community.

In 2012, Senior Judge Eli Breger was recruited to the 15th Judicial Circuit by former Chief Judge Peter Blanc to assist with the backlog of foreclosure cases. His steadfast commitment to the foreclosure division helped clear thousands of cases during his judicial tenure.

Judge Breger was honored at the 2017 Bench Bar Conference as the oldest Florida Bar card carrying member. He joined the Florida Bar in 1949.



Hon. Eli Breger (Senior Judge) and  
Hon. Peter Blanc.



## IN MEMORIAM: WALTER COLBATH III

### Walter Colbath, III

September 19, 1956– August 30, 2017

Our dear Walter Colbath, III, passed away on August 30, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Kristen Colbath; his three sons, Walter Newell Colbath, IV, Cameron, and Jason; his father, Walter Newell Colbath, Jr.; his mother Karen Davis; his brother, the Hon. Jeffrey Colbath; niece Kelly; nephew, Reilly; sister Stephanie; and other family members.

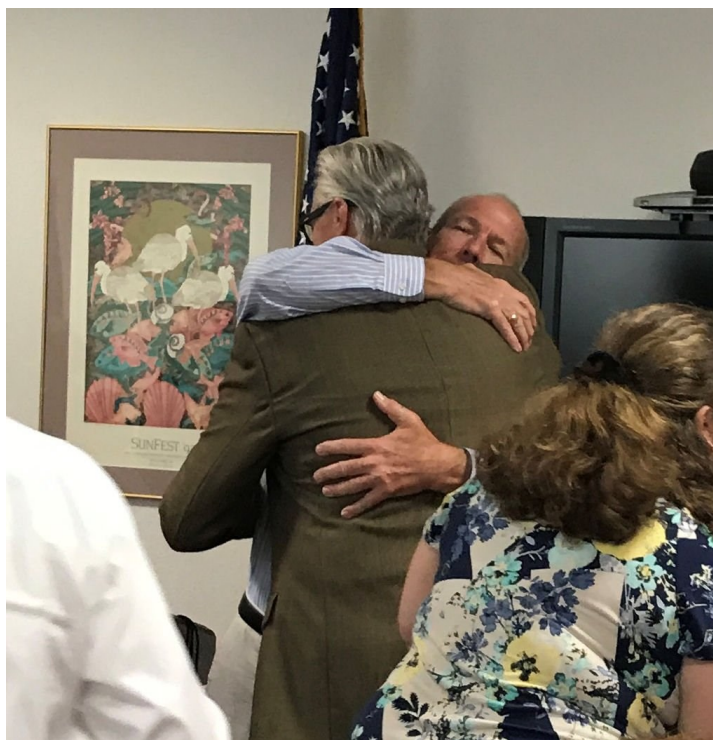
Walter was hired into the Circuit on August 8, 2011 as the Mediation Services Coordinator. In that role he recruited, organized, supported and provided educational opportunities for the Circuit's volunteer mediators. It was his responsibility to ensure that the County Court bench had enough mediators at all of the court-houses to cover the large county civil dockets. It was a complicated job that he conducted with professionalism, with a positive attitude, and with concern for the Court's operations, the County Court Judges, and his team of dedicated Volunteer Mediators.

Those who interacted with Walter can all attest to the fact that Walter was a great, lovable, larger-than-life, man. He was funny, adventurous, and again, always so positive. We miss his smiling face, his booming laugh, and his corny jokes. Our hearts remain broken.

-Barbara



Walter Colbath III



Judge Jeffrey Colbath receives a hug from Walter Colbath III.

### 7th Annual Chief Justice Jorge Labarga Lunch Reception

On August 11, 2017, the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association (PBCHBA) hosted the Seventh Annual Chief Justice Jorge Labarga Lunch Reception at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach, FL.

Named in honor of PBCHBA former president Chief Justice Labarga, this annual event honors an individual who has made a significant impact in the Palm Beach County legal community. This year, PBCHBA honored Judge Daliah Weiss. Nearly 200 attendees came out to see Justice Labarga present the award to Judge Weiss.



L to r: Chief Justice Jorge Labarga, Judge Daliah Weiss, and President of Hispanic Bar Association Nelson Baez.

### Lunch-n-Learn: Build Your Retirement Nest Egg

On August 8, 2017, Lunch-n-Learn: Build Your Retirement Nest Egg, was presented by Dundee Gouin & Jesse Hert, Financial Advisors from Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. During this presentation, Ms. Hert discussed retirement risks, the importance of building a retirement plan, and creating income during the retirement years.



Jesse Hert addresses the attendees.

## BILL MORENO RETIRES

Guillermo (Bill) Moreno retired July 31, 2017, after serving the citizens of Palm Beach County for thirty-five years. Since 1992, Bill has served as a Court Interpreter, a County Mediator, a Family Mediator, and a Circuit and Civil Mediator in both the Eleventh and Fifteenth Judicial Circuits of Florida. In August 2010, Bill became the Director of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, where he served until his retirement.

Bill Moreno has also been a valuable member of the Mediation Qualifications Board for the Dispute Resolution Office in Tallahassee for many years.

Bill has retired to Miami. He plans on spending more time with his family.



The Mediation Office gives Bill Moreno a fond farewell.

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If you do not have an account, you can always view our latest Tweets by clicking on the Twitter icon on the lower right side of the Circuit webpage.





## DELINQUENCY DRUG COURT GRADUATION

At a graduation ceremony held on August 9, 2017, Judge James Martz honored a graduate who successfully completed the requirements of the Delinquency Drug Court Program.

Participants, family members, advocates, Drug Court Team members, stakeholders, and community members were present to recognize the participant's accomplishments. Judge Martz provided the Court attendees with an overview of the graduate's life and presented the graduate with a certificate of completion.

Delinquency Drug Court began in 2008. Since its inception, forty-nine participants have graduated.



L to r: Rebakah Wilson, program graduate, and Brandon Richardson, Juvenile Court Case Manager.

## Diversity Internship Luncheon

The Committee for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) established the Diversity Internship Program (DIP) in 2010 with the goal of providing law students of diverse backgrounds work experience through summer internships with participating law firms and governmental agencies in Palm Beach County. DIP's main focus is to give law students the opportunity to gain valuable insight into the local legal community and encourage them to return to Palm Beach County upon graduation to begin their legal careers.

Throughout the summer the CDI coordinates different networking opportunities and unique legal experiences to help the interns make the most of their summer experience and gain valuable insight into the PBC Bar Association. Every year, the CDI presents A Tip & Tools Workshop which is a lunchtime panel discussion covering a wide range of topics including: resume advice, networking tips, writing sample recommendations, and guidance on how to develop a positive reputation as a young lawyer. This summer panelists included Krista Downey, Amy Borman, Samuel Bryant, Sayed Zoniad and Tabitha Taylor and was moderated by Laura Scala-Olympio.



L to r: Krista Downey, General Counsel Amy Borman, Samuel Bryant, Sayed Zoniad, and Tabitha Taylor.

## AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### Directors' Sensitivity Training

Ms. Sabine Pearson was the guest speaker at the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit July 2017 Directors' meeting. Ms. Pearson is employed by Compass LGBT Community Center in Lake Worth. She is responsible for the Youth Program and co-facilitates the Youth Group.

Ms. Pearson provided a sensitivity/educational training for the Directors on transgender issues such as addressing transgender members of the public, supporting transgender employees, and debunking common myths or misconceptions about the LGBTQ community. Ms. Pearson also provided the Directors with information related to the Palm Beach County Human Rights Code. She noted that the Code provides some protection for members of the LGBTQ community because it prohibits places of public accommodation from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.



Fifteen Judicial Circuit Directors with Sabine Pearson.

### Lunch-n-Learn: Drowning in Debt

On May 9th, 2017, Senior Vice President Guita Dadressan and Jinette Cruz of PRIMERICA, presented on the topic of debt management to members of Court Administration.

Attendees were provided with information on how to avoid having debt spiral out of control, how to apply for loans, and tips for chipping away at and paying down debt.



Jinette Cruz lists ways to manage debt for the attendees.



### Excellence Awards

Congratulations to those persons nominated for the Judicial Assistant Recognition Award for the Second Quarter of 2017:

- Mary Beardsley
- Marilyn Greathouse
- Sherrie Norton

Congratulations, also, to those persons nominated for the Court Administration employee of the second quarter of 2017:

- Philip Curtis
- Sue Ling Curtis
- Rhoda Jones

The presentation ceremony was held on August 16, 2017 where the winners for the Second Quarter of 2017, as selected by the Committee, were announced.

In the Judicial Assistant category, the winner was **Marilyn Greathouse**, Judicial Assistant to Judge Frank Castor. In the Court Administration employee category the winner was **Rhoda Jones**, Purchasing Manager.

Each of the winners received a plaque, a paid Administrative leave day, a photo in this newsletter, and four weeks of parking in the Judicial Parking garage. Congratulations to our winners.



Chief Judge Krista Marx and Rhoda Jones.



L to r: Chief Judge Krista Marx, Judicial Assistant Marilyn Greathouse, and Judge Frank S. Castor.



# TRIAL COURT LAW CLERK PROGRAM

## Trial Court Law Clerks

In August 2017, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit welcomed four new Trial Court Law Clerks. The law clerks work under the direction and supervision of the General Counsel and perform legal research for the judiciary. The law clerks are hired for a two year clerkship which begins in August of each year. The 2017-2019 class consists of Joseph Meyer, Joleen East, Nadine Singh, and Zade Shamsi-Basha.



L to r: Joseph Meyer, Joleen East, Nadine Singh, and Zade Shamsi-Basha.

# TRIAL COURT LAW CLERK PROGRAM

## Joleen East

Joleen East graduated magna cum laude from Florida Atlantic University where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Business Law. She attended Chicago-Kent College of Law before transferring to the University of Florida College of Law. Joleen was the Executive Acquisitions Editor of the Journal of Law and Public Policy, was on the Alternative Dispute Resolution Team, and received the book award for Trial Practice. Prior to attending law school, Joleen worked as a legal assistant in Boca Raton.



Joleen East

Joseph Meyer graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Psychology. Joe attended Florida State University College of Law where he served in Student Government as the Chief Justice on the FSU Supreme Court. During law school, Joe clerked as an appellate law clerk for the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel and interned at the 15th Judicial Circuit's State Attorney's Office.



Joseph Meyer

Nadine Singh received her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Florida and her Master of Arts in English and American Literature from New York University. Prior to attending law school at the University of Florida, Nadine worked as a high school teacher in Wauchula, Florida, teaching English to at risk students as well as Speech & Debate. During law school, Nadine was a research assistant for Professor Elizabeth Rowe, a teaching assistant for Trial Practice, and the Notes Editor for the Journal of Technology and Law. Nadine interned at the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida for Judges Sheri Polster Chappell and Douglas Frazier.



Nadine Singh



# TRIAL COURT LAW CLERK PROGRAM

## Zade Shamsi-Basha

Zade Shamsi-Basha received his Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, in Political Science from Birmingham-Southern College and his law degree from University of Alabama School of Law. While in law school, Zade clerked for Chief Magistrate Judge Ott of the Northern District of Alabama, the U.S. Department of Justice (Office of Immigration Litigation), the Southern Environmental Law Center, and the University of Alabama's Office of Counsel.



Zade Shamsi-Basha

## Ebryonna Wiggins

In September 2017, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit had its first extern from Northeastern University Law School. Ebryonna Wiggins joined the Trial Clerk Law Program for an initial three month externship, which has recently been extended for three more months.



Ebryonna Wiggins



## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Administrative Orders amended July 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017 are:

Amended A.O. Local Rule #4 IN RE: UNIFORM MOTION CALENDAR AND SPECIALLY SET HEARINGS

Administrative Order 5.807 7/17 - IN RE: Chapter 39 Adoptions

Administrative Order 3.302-8/17- Foreclosure Division AW

New Administrative Order 3.909-8/17 – In RE: Creation of Circuit Civil Division “AK”

A.O. – 11.101-8/17 – Assignment of Judges

A.O. – 11.106-8/17 – Alternate Assignments

A.O. – 11.104-8/17 – Seniority of Judges

A.O. – 10.301-8/17 – Civil Traffic Infraction

Administrative Order 2017-12.703 -9/17 – In RE: Order Permitting Clerk to Accept Paper Filings by Attorneys

Administrative Order 3.302 - 9/17 as amended – In Re: Foreclosure Division – “AW”

Administrative Order 11.113-9/17 – In RE: Reassignment of Cases after Disqualification or Recusal

Admin Order 11.110-9/17 – In RE: Appointment of Circuit Judges as Acting County Judges County Judges as Acting Circuit Judges

For updates to the latest Administrative Orders (AOs) for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, please see our website at:  
<http://15thcircuit.co.palm-beach.fl.us/web/guest/ao>.

## WELCOME TO THE CIRCUIT

Luis Comabella	Spanish Court Interpreter
Brianna Davino	Digital Court Reporter
Tara Singh	Digital Court Reporter
Zachary Shapiro	Spanish Court Interpreter
Joleen East	Trial Court Law Clerk
Nadine Singh	Trial Court Law Clerk
Joseph Meyer	Trial Court Law Clerk
Zade Shamsi-Basha	Trial Court Law Clerk
Carlos Gross-Martinez	Computer Specialist II



Walter Colbath III mediates with a moray eel.

