

Florida State Courts Prepare Planning for Pandemic as Part of an “All-Hazards” Approach

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

*June 26, 2006, 9:30am to 4:00pm
Buena Vista Ballroom
Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista Resort
Lake Buena Vista, Florida*

Justice R. Fred Lewis, Florida Supreme Court



Justice R. Fred Lewis was appointed to the Supreme Court of Florida on December 7, 1998, by the late Gov. Lawton Chiles. He was born in Beckley, West Virginia, in 1947. He attended Woodrow Wilson High School, where he was actively involved in both athletic and academic pursuits, serving as president of the student body, receiving All State and All American recognition for athletic achievement, and receiving the Pete George Memorial Award as the outstanding scholar athlete.

Justice Lewis came to Florida in 1965 to attend Florida Southern College in Lakeland, where he excelled in athletics and academics. He was elected president of the sophomore, junior, and senior classes, and received the highest honor in 1969 by being selected as the Honor Walk Student, which is awarded annually for the outstanding senior student for scholastic and service achievements.

He graduated from college cum laude in 1969 and was awarded the NCAA Post-Graduate Grant as one of the top fifteen scholar athletes in the United States. He also received the Besser Lindsey Award as one of the top ten male university students in the United States, awarded by Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Among his other achievements were the Williams Memorial Outstanding Athlete Award and inclusion in the Outstanding Athletes in America, National Student Register, Order of Omega, Omicron Delta Kappa, Psi Chi, Political Union, and the Greek Hall of Fame.

Upon graduating from college, Lewis moved to Miami to attend the University of Miami School of Law, where he graduated cum laude in 1972. He was a member of the University of Miami Law Review and was an officer in the Student Bar Association. Selected as a Justice of the Law School Honor Council, Lewis also served on the Appellate Moot Court Teams. He was selected for the Iron Arrow, the highest honor society, and was awarded membership in Bar and Gavel, and Order of Barristers.

Upon graduation from law school, Justice Lewis attended and graduated from the United States Army A.G. School after acting as Commander of the Corps of cadets for the University of Miami ROTC program. He graduated as its top student, receiving the Order of World Wars Superior Achievement Honor. Upon discharge from the military, Lewis entered private practice in Miami, specializing in civil trial and appellate litigation. He left practice upon his appointment to the Florida Supreme Court effective January 1, 1999.

Selected as Florida's Citizen of the Year in 2001 by the Florida Council, Justice Lewis has been heavily involved in children's issues, serving as a member of the Board of Directors of Miami Children's Hospital and many of its committees and panels. While in private practice, he was heavily involved in providing

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counseling to families with children having impairments and provided pro bono legal services and counseling for cancer patients seeking proper treatment for multiple conditions. In 2001 he also received the "Everyday Hero" award for his outstanding contributions to community service in Florida.

He has served The Florida Bar in the capacity of Inventory Attorney, spending many hours auditing and reviewing files for the protection of clients. He has authored materials published by The Florida Bar's Continuing Legal Education Program and has participated in numerous cases selected for annotation in The American Law Report.

Currently a member of the Tallahassee American Inn of Court, in 1999, Justice Lewis received the distinguished Friends of Justice award from the American Board of Trial Advocates for his dedication and service to the citizens of Florida. In 2001, Justice Lewis also received the Public Trust and Confidence Award from the Florida Law Related Education Association. He previously served on Florida's Commission on the Legal Needs of Children and is active in the Justice Teaching Institute, a program designed to enhance public education. In 2002, the University of Central Florida honored Justice Lewis by creating the Justice R. Fred Lewis Award, which will be awarded annually to the individual who has demonstrated the highest level of social responsibility. Justice Lewis received the inaugural award for his service to the youth of Florida. He also received the 2005 Great American, Law in Education Award, the 2006 Guardian of The Constitution Award, and the 2006 Education for Democracy Award.

As a member of the Florida Supreme Court, Justice Lewis serves as liaison to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, the Judicial Management Council, the Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure, the Committee on Standard Civil Jury Instructions, and the Code and Rules of Evidence Committee.

Justice Lewis is a volunteer in the Florida Law Related Education program working with Florida teachers and students. He is involved in a program of actively teaching and working in schools throughout Florida to promote a better understanding of government institutions and providing open access to judicial officers.

In 2000, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Public Service degree from Florida Southern College. In 2002, Justice Lewis received an Honorary Doctor of Law degree from St. Thomas University. He also has been the recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Contributions to We the People, the Citizens and the Constitution; a Florida State University College of Law Award for Contributions to the Summer Law Program; a Guardian of the Constitution Citizenship Award for Law-Related Education in Brevard County; a Dade County Bar Association, Young Lawyer's Section Dedication to Children Award; and an Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Study of Law, Legal and Public Affairs, by Miami Senior High School.

Justice Lewis and his wife Judith attended Florida Southern College together and were married in 1969. They have two children, Elle and Lindsay.

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M. Rony François, Secretary, Florida Department of Health



M. Rony François M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D., was appointed as Florida’s Secretary of Health by Governor Jeb Bush on September 15, 2005. As Secretary of the Department, he leads a state agency with more than 16,000 employees statewide. In his role as the State Health Officer and as the first Haitian-American to lead Florida’s Department of Health, Dr. Francois intends to carry out the noble mission of promoting and protecting the health of all Floridians by encouraging preventive strategies as an integral part of health care.

Prior to his appointment as Secretary of Health, Dr. François held the position of Assistant Professor and Director of the Public Health Practice Program at the University Of South Florida College Of Public Health, and was working as a Medical Director for Corporate Health Dimensions at Citigroup in Tampa. In addition, he has served on several state and federal scientific panels contributing to important policy decisions that addressed public health issues.

With an extensive academic background including a Master of Arts in Exercise Physiology from the University of Central Florida, a Doctor of Medicine degree, a Master of Science in Public Health, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Toxicology/Public Health degree all from USF, Dr. François “has a depth of knowledge about public health policy and will be a strong advocate for providing quality health services for Floridians,” said Governor Bush. Fluent in French, Creole, and limited Spanish, Dr. François has worked as a teacher, cardiac rehab exercise physiologist, and has played professional soccer. He was named All-American in 1982 and inducted into the UCF Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005 for his accomplishments in soccer.

Secretary François sets high standards for himself, succeeds in his goals and brings that same unwavering determination to his work for the people of Florida. He believes it is the duty of every public health employee and every provider to provide “competent, just and compassionate care in a totally inclusive fashion.” Dr. François urges all Floridians to make healthy lifestyle choices and recommends regular physical activity, proper nutrition and stress management to all. Under his leadership, and with the help of the state’s dedicated public health professionals, the Florida Department of Health will continue to be one of the finest in the nation.

Dr. François credits his whole family, especially his wife and three children, “for their support and love, which have provided me with the driving strength necessary to devote my professional and academic career to the development of public health in Florida.”

Dr. Francois points to a recent study where nearly half of all bankruptcies were linked to health issues. “These data remind us that good health is our best asset,” Dr. Francois said. “I want to remind all Floridians

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that true health, indeed, is not simply the absence of disease, but a state where stress management, good nutrition and regular exercise allow the attainment of wellness. And the Romans said it best: Mens sana in corpore sano; or, a healthy mind in a healthy body.”

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Patrick J. Gardner, Planning Manager, Office of Emergency Operations, Florida Department of Health

Patrick Gardner is a Registered Nurse and is the Planning Manager for the Office of Emergency Operations at the Florida Department of Health. Work experience includes pre hospital, hospital and public health care, as well as disaster management planning coordination, and response.

In his current position as Planning Manager, Mr. Gardner coordinates the Florida Department of Health and state Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8: Health and Medical planning efforts in the Office of Emergency Operations as well as strategic and tactical planning in response to actual incidents. Highlights of these coordination efforts include:

- March 2006 to current: Deputy Planning Coordinator – Department of Health Pandemic Influenza Emerging Event Team
 - February 2006: Technical Specialist / Subject Matter Expert – Governor’s Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise
 - December 2005 to March 2006: Contingency Planning Unit Coordinator –Department of Health Pandemic Influenza Emerging Event Team
 - Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Rita, Wilma (2005) - Planning Coordinator (Chief), Emergency Support Function 8: Health and Medical – State Emergency Operations Center (Florida). Planning and response in support of impacted areas within Florida. Planning activities also included the deployment and support of Department of Health staff to the six southern counties of Mississippi immediately post impact (Katrina)
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Timothy M. Cerio, General Counsel, Florida Department of Health



Timothy M. Cerio serves as the General Counsel of the Florida Department of Health. With over 16,000 employees and a 2.2 billion-dollar budget, the Florida Department of Health is responsible for regulating all licensed health care practitioners and delivering public health services throughout the State of Florida. As General Counsel, Tim oversees a statewide team of approximately 75 lawyers, and provides advice and counsel to the Secretary and other Department leaders on legal issues impacting the operation and administration of the Department of Health.

Tim was raised in Bradenton, Florida, and received his B.A. degree in Political Science from the University of Florida in 1990. During his tenure at the University, Tim was appointed by Governor Lawton Chiles to serve as the Student Member of the Florida Board of Regents. Additionally, Tim received the Outstanding Male Leader award for his graduating class, was a member of the Florida Blue Key leadership honorary, and was elected to the University of Florida Hall of Fame. Tim earned his J.D. degree, with honors, from the University of Florida College of Law in 1995. During law school, Tim was a member of the Florida Law Review Editorial Board.

Tim has served as a law clerk to the Honorable Thomas G. Wilson, United States Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Florida. Before joining the Department, Tim was a partner in the law firm of GrayRobinson, P.A. where his practice focused on state and local government law, including representation of clients in regulatory, administrative, and quasi-judicial proceedings, as well as federal and state public procurement matters and bid protest disputes. Tim also has experience representing professionals in licensing/credentialing matters and in complex commercial litigation. Tim is admitted to practice in all Florida state courts, as well as the United States District Courts for the Middle and Northern Districts of Florida, the United States Court of Federal Claims, and the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals.

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Daniel Stier, Public Health Analyst, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dan Stier, J.D., joined CDC's Public Health Law Program in January, 2005. During his time with the Program, he has devoted considerable time to addressing multi-jurisdictional issues relating to public health emergency legal preparedness. Before joining CDC, Mr. Stier had a long and varied career in Wisconsin state government. In his most recent state position, as Chief Legal Counsel for ten years with the Department of Health and Family Services, he was closely involved with public health issues, including public health emergency preparedness and related revisions of Wisconsin law. Prior to his service with the Department of Health and Family Services, Mr. Stier served as an assistant attorney general in the Wisconsin Department of Justice and as the Deputy Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. He is a member of the State Bars of Wisconsin and Georgia, and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School.

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David Halstead, Bureau Chief, Preparedness and Response, Florida Division of Emergency Management

Began serving in the Fire Service starting in 1970, working for the City of Altamonte Springs Fire Department rising through the ranks and retiring as an Assistant Chief in 1998. Member of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association Statewide Disaster Response Committee and was the chair of that committee from January 1995 until February 1998.

March 1999: Government Analyst with the State Division of Emergency Management. Served as the Emergency Services Branch Chief during 10 presidential disaster declarations overseeing law enforcement, fire, EMS and hazardous materials response. Responsible for the implementation of the Governors Task Force recommendations after the 1998 wildfires. Served as a member of the National Wildland Urban Interface Working Team that developed a national wildfire mitigation concept, Firewise, and was a leader in wildland firefighter safety, serving as its chair from 2002 until 2004.

Beginning in 2003 coordinated the Office of Domestic Preparedness grants that were directed to the State and to the Urban Areas, totaling over \$200 million in two years. Coordinated the statewide terrorism assessment ordered by the Office of Domestic Preparedness. Served as co-chair on the State Domestic Security State Working Team (Operations/Planning Sub-committee) 2003 until 2005.

August 2004: Appointed by the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and approved by the Governor to serve as the first Chief of Domestic Preparedness for the state. Within this office are the responsibilities for working with all state and local partners on preparedness, response, equipment, training, exercises, port security for domestic preparedness. Serve as the chief coordinating officer for the State Working Group on Domestic Preparedness overseeing the activities of 5 statewide committees.

April 2006: Named Bureau Chief for Preparedness and Response with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM).
