

# FULL COURT PRESS

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## Florida Drug Courts Receive National Award

by *Eve Janocko*,  
Court Operations Consultant



**Governor Jeb Bush addresses drug court graduates in Ft. Lauderdale.**

The Florida State Courts System and the Florida Office of the Governor received the national award for the best showcasing of *National Drug Court Month* during the 2001 National Association of Drug Court Professionals' Annual Conference in New Orleans. Florida was recognized for the highly successful May 17, 2001 State-wide Drug Court Graduation, which was video streamed through the Internet and the Florida State Courts System's state of the art video-conferencing network.

Judge Melanie May's Drug Court in Broward County was the host site for this year's graduation. Chief Justice Charles T. Wells gave congratulatory remarks from the Supreme Court in Tallahassee to all the drug court graduates participating from jurisdictions in Bartow, Ft. Lauderdale, Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Miami, Tampa, and Rockledge.

Florida Governor Jeb Bush attended the graduation in Ft. Lauderdale where his remarks were broadcast statewide. While at the graduation, Governor Bush signed into law HB 199, the key legislation passed during the 2001 Legislative Session that lays the foundation for institutionalizing drug courts in the state of Florida. Bill sponsors Senator Locke Burt and Representative Allen

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Trovillion were also present for the signing. The event was a true collaboration of the three branches of government and a good example of how technology can be used to unify events held across the state.

Court technology officers and drug court coordinators who hosted graduations and coordinated events to celebrate *National Drug Court Month* played a key part in Florida's national recognition. In addition, many staff members from the Office of the State Courts Administrator were instrumental in making the statewide graduation a success, including John Cook, Hanna Watson, Rodger Reynolds, and Debbie Hoard from Information Systems Services and Jennifer Grandal from Court Services.

The Broward County Drug Court team did a fantastic job coordinating the logistics of the Governor's visit and the technical aspects of the statewide graduation. The following individuals made it happen-- Judge Melanie May, Broward County Drug Court Judge; Carol Ortman, Trial Court Administrator; Dixie Knoebel, Senior Deputy Courts Administrator; Sunil Nemade, Chief Technology Officer; Craig Burger, Director of Video Operations; Gayle Clewis, Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator; and Gary Hilko, Adult Drug Court Coordinator.

In addition to the statewide graduation, numerous other activities took place in recognition of *National Drug Court Month* including:

- The creation and distribution of a videotape to each drug court program, which included congratulatory remarks from Chief Justice Wells and Governor Bush. The remarks were purposefully generic in nature so that the videotape could routinely be used during any future drug court graduations.

- A joint proclamation, declaring the month of May as *National Drug Court Month* in the State of Florida, was signed by Chief Justice Wells and Governor Bush. A number of programs also adopted resolutions, and published press releases and news articles with local media and law related publications.
- The Broward County juvenile and adult drug court participants and staff participated in a "Beach Clean-Up" in Ft. Lauderdale and the juvenile drug court created a 25 foot banner featuring interlocking hand prints of the drug court team and participants to symbolize "Drug Free Hands Across Broward County."
- The Bay County Drug Court held a "Picnic in the Park" in Panama City for their graduation which included family games and activities, food and refreshments, along with guest speakers.

All drug courts are encouraged to participate in celebrating *National Drug Court Month*. The Third Annual Statewide Drug Court Graduation will be hosted by the Miami Drug Court on May 17, 2002. Participation in the statewide graduation is an excellent opportunity for Florida's drug courts to showcase the collaboration and commitment among the state's programs.

If you have any questions regarding the graduation or drug courts, please contact Eve Janocko, Court Operations Consultant, at 850-488-8622 or Jennifer Grandal, Sr. Court Analyst I, at 850-922-5101. ☞



*Eve Janocko is a Court Operations Consultant at OSCA. Her duties include working with drug courts, the Drug Court Steering Committee, SRS, and the Supreme Court Commission on Fairness. She can be reached at (850) 488-8622.*

## District Court of Appeal Budget Commission Formed

by *Dorothy P. Burke, Budget Analyst, OSCA*

On March 15, 2001, the Supreme Court issued opinion SC01-87 amending the Rules of Judicial Administration and establishing the District Court of Appeal Budget Commission (DCABC), effective July 1, 2001. The role and function of the DCABC is to provide a forum for appellate court representatives to review funding issues and priorities for the district courts of appeal so that all court officers and personnel can make collaborative decisions on legislative funding proposals for the intermediate appellate courts. The Commission will also be responsible for adopting policies and procedures for the development and administration of the five district court budgets in a manner which ensures equity and fairness in state funding.

Beginning in 2001, the judicial branch must submit a long-range program plan to the Legislature. This requirement will result in changes to budget request development and justification, and will require the inclusion of information about the impact of budget reductions. The DCABC will review and make recommendations to the Supreme Court on the components of the long-range program plan involving the district courts of appeal.

The Commission consists of nine members. On June 8, 2001, by administrative order, Chief Justice Charles Wells made appointments to the Commission as follows:

July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2003

- The Honorable John Blue**  
Chief Judge, Second District Court of Appeal
- Ms. Dottie Tutt**  
Deputy Marshal, Third District Court of Appeal
- Ms. Marilyn Beuttenmuller**  
Clerk, Fourth District Court of Appeal

July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2005

- The Honorable Emerson Thompson, Jr.**  
Chief Judge, Fifth District Court of Appeal
- The Honorable Alan R. Schwartz**  
Chief Judge, Third District Court of Appeal
- Mr. Jon Wheeler**  
Clerk, First District Court of Appeal

July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2007

- The Honorable Martha Warner**  
Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal
- The Honorable Michael E. Allen**  
Chief Judge, First District Court of Appeal
- Mr. Ty Berdeaux**  
Marshal, Fifth District Court of Appeal

Chief Judge Emerson Thompson, Jr., shall serve as Chair, Chief Judge Michael Allen shall serve as Vice-Chair, and Justice Barbara J. Pariente shall serve as Supreme Court Liaison from July 1, 2001, to June 30, 2003. The Commission's first meeting was held in June and a second was held on August 1, for review of legislative budget requests. ♣

## Benchmarks

New Judicial Placements Since May 2001:

*Circuit Court*

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Meryl Lee Allawas</b>  | 18 <sup>th</sup> Circuit |
| <b>Kevin Emas</b>         | 11 <sup>th</sup> Circuit |
| <b>Frank A. Gomez</b>     | 13 <sup>th</sup> Circuit |
| <b>Elizabeth T. Maass</b> | 15 <sup>th</sup> Circuit |
| <b>Thomas B. Smith</b>    | 9 <sup>th</sup> Circuit  |

*Any judge wishing to place his or her photograph on file with Full Court Press should send it to Kelly Sciba, Supreme Court of Florida, 500 S. Duval Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1900.*

## Florida Supreme Court Issues Opinion on Family Courts

In a May 3, 2001 unanimous opinion, the Florida Supreme Court reaffirmed its commitment to its earlier family court opinions, stating that “our goal continues to be the creation of a fully integrated, comprehensive approach to handling all cases involving children and families,” *In re: Report of the Family Court Steering Committee*, 26 Fla.L.Weekly S287 (pending rehearing). The lengthy opinion, which includes a review of the history of the family court initiative, addresses each of the Family Court Steering Committee recommendations.

The Court identified five anticipated benefits to full implementation of the model: 1) reducing the impact of inconsistent orders on law enforcement, witnesses, and the parties; 2) encouraging agreed-upon resolution of issues, thereby reducing the judge’s time in each case; 3) reducing the need for further modification or enforcement proceedings; 4) reducing the overall time that a family is in court, thereby minimizing the disruption to the litigants and their employment; and 5) reducing the duplication of services.

The Family Court Steering Committee was directed to continue to develop details of the model family court and determine the resources necessary to implement the model statewide and to provide this detailed information to the Trial Court Budget Commission for assessing the budgetary requirements for statewide funding of the court system.

To view the opinion, go to [www.flcourts.org](http://www.flcourts.org). For more information, contact your local FCSC representative, Judge Raymond T. McNeal, Chair, or Jo Haynes Suhr, OSCA, at (850) 922-5691.

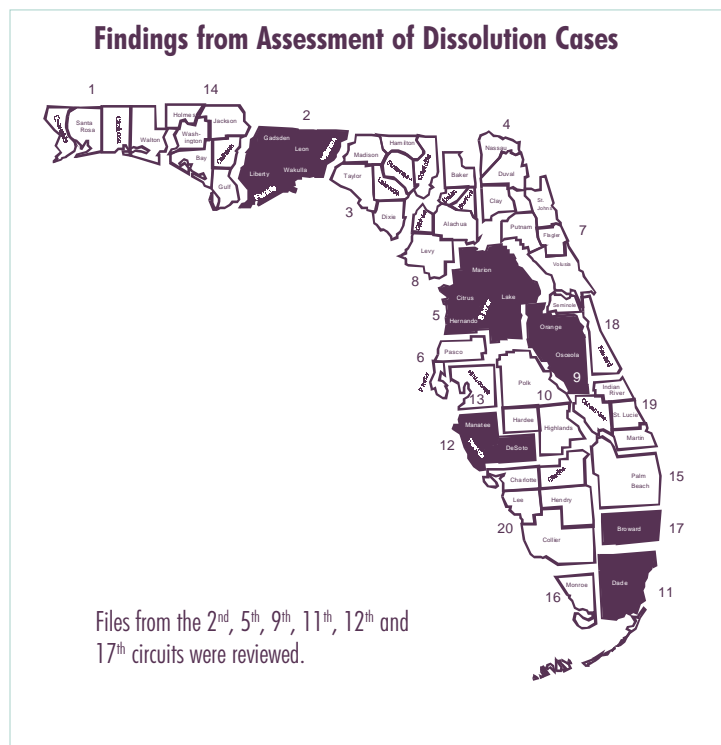
### Family Court Steering Committee Members

Judge Raymond T. McNeal, 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit, Chair  
 Mr. Frank J. Alarcon, DJJ  
 Mr. H. Britt Beasley, TCA, 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
 Mr. Seymour Benson, Orlando  
 Ms. Caroline Black, Tampa  
 General Master Roxie Crowell, 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
 Judge Lisa Davidson, 18<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
 Judge Daniel Dawson, 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
 Judge Robert Doyel, 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
 Mr. Sheldon Finman, Ft. Myers  
 Mr. Tom Genung, 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
 Judge James C. Hauser, 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
 Ms. Judith Hodor, Miami  
 Dr. Brenda Jarmon, FAMU  
 Judge Sandy Karlan, 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
 Secretary Kathleen Kearney, DCF  
 Mr. Jeffrey Kielbasa, DOR  
 Judge Judith Kreeger, 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
 Dr. Kathryn Kuehnle, USF  
 Judge John Lenderman, 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
 Mr. Caroll L. McCauley, Panama City  
 Karen L. Nicolai, Hernando County Clerk  
 Ms. Beverly Parker, Ft. Lauderdale  
 Ms. Linda Radigan, DCF  
 Chief Judge Robert K. Rouse, Jr., 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
 Judge Fredrick D. Smith, 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
 Mr. Kent Spuhler, Tallahassee  
 Judge Hugh Starnes, 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
 Judge Terry D. Terrell, 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit  
 General Master Harriet Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit  
 Judge Kenneth L. Williams, 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit  
 Mr. Tom Willis, TCA, 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit

## Family Court Steering Committee Conducts Assessment

In 2000, on behalf of the Family Court Steering Committee, the OSCA undertook a comprehensive assessment of the movement of dissolution of marriage cases through the court system. Included in this analysis were the factors affecting case flow and time frames and the system's responsiveness to the families and children it serves. This assessment was conducted by reviewing 2,449 simplified and regular dissolution

cases filed between 1996 and 1998. Nearly 73,000 surveys were distributed to judges, lawyers, litigants, and other stakeholders. Findings from this study are guiding the Family Court Steering Committee in its efforts to design an effective case management system that includes intake and referral, differentiated case management and tracking, case monitoring, and alternative dispute resolution.



## Test Your Assumptions About Dissolution Cases

### Petitioners

Which spouse is more likely to petition for a divorce?

- a) husband      b) wife

**Answer = b) wife (57.7% of cases)**

*Wives are twice as likely to be the petitioner if the case involves children and property.*

Which spouse is more likely to be represented at filing?

- a) husband    b) wife

**Answer = b) wife (55.7% of cases)**

### Respondents

Answers are filed in what % of cases?

- a) 28%    b) 38%    c) 48%    d) 58%

**Answer = d) 58%**

Counter-petitions are filed in what % of cases?

- a) 6%    b) 16%    c) 26%    d) 36%

**Answer = b) 16%**

What % of respondents waive notice of future hearings? a) 10%    b) 20%    c) 30%    d) 40%

**Answer = b) 30.7%**

*continued on page 6*

**Family** from page 5**Time Frames**

On average, how long does it take to get a divorce in Florida? a) under 2 months b) 2-4 months c) 4-6 months d) over six months

**Answer= c) 4.5 Months**

What % of cases are disposed of within two months? a) 26% b) 36% c) 46% d) 56%

**Answer =c) 46%**

Does it take more or less time to finalize a divorce when the parties are represented by counsel? a) more time b) Less time

**Answer=a) More time**

The mean time frame to final judgment:

if petitioner is represented at filing is 5.5 months

if petitioner is not represented at filing is 3.4 months

if respondent is represented at filing is 8.5 months

if respondent is not represented at filing is 4.3 months

It takes longer to finalize a divorce when the: a) petitioner is unrepresented b) petitioner falls within the lower income ranges c) respondent falls within the higher income ranges d) Both b and c

**Answer= d**

**Marital Settlement Agreements (MSA)**

What % of cases have a MSA filed within 2 months? a) 16% b) 26% c) 36% d) 46%

**Answer = b) 26%**

What % of cases have a MSA filed more than 6 months after the petition? a) 27% b) 37% c) 47% d) 57% **Answer= b) 37.5%**

*If the MSA is filed after 60 days, the mean disposition time increases from 1.8 months to 8.4 months.*

**Contested v. Uncontested**

What percent of cases could be identified as "uncontested" within 30 days of filing? (uncontested is defined as a simplified case, cases with an MSA at filing or within 30 days, and cases that include a waiver or default) a) 39% b) 49% c) 59% d) 69%

**Answer= d) 69%**

**Discovery**

What % of petitioners filed a certificate of compliance with mandatory disclosure or similar documentation? a) 12% b) 22% c) 32% d) 42%

**Answer= a) 12.4%**

What % of petitioners served interrogatories on the respondent? a) 7% b) 15% c) 22% d) 30%

**Answer= a) 7.4%**

**Motions**

What is the average time between filing the petition and the first pre-judgment motion?

a) 1.6 months b) 2.6 months c) 3.6 months d) 4.6 months **Answer= b) 2.6 months**

Excluding motions for default, what % of cases have a pre-judgment or post-judgment motion? a) 28% b) 38% c) 48% d) 58%

**Answer= b) 28%**

What is the most prevalent subject of post-judgment motions?

a) alimony b) child support c) custody/visitation d) property

**Answer = b)child support**

*31% of post-judgment motions involved a child support issue*

The average time from filing a pre-judgment motion until an order is signed by the judge is:

a) under 5 days b) 10 days c) 15 days d) 20 days e) over 20 days

**Answer= e) 26 days**

The average time from filing a post-judgment motion until an order is signed by the judge is:

a) under 15 days b) 20 days c) 30 days d) 45 days e) over 45 days

**Answer= e) 61 days**

**Parenting Course**

In cases involving children, in what % of cases do both parents complete a parenting course?

a) 23% b) 33% c) 43% d) 53%

**Answer= d) 53%**

## Alternative Dispute Resolution Committees Reorganized

by Sharon Press, Dispute Resolution Center Director

On June 29, Chief Justice Charles T. Wells, in two administrative orders, created the Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy and the Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules. Both Committees will be staffed by the Dispute Resolution Center and Justice Fred Lewis will serve as the Supreme Court's liaison to the Committees.

The ADR Policy Committee is the successor committee to the Supreme Court Committee on Mediation and Arbitration Training. The Training Committee, created in 1988 and chaired by circuit Judge Shawn Briese, developed the learning objectives and requirements for the Supreme Court certified mediation training programs and recommended the continuing mediator education requirements. Other members of the Training Committee included Alan Kahn, vice-chair; Paul Carland, Ruben Carrerou, Robin Davis, Greg Firestone, Don Peters, Laurie Riemer, and Kathy Reuter.

The ADR Policy Committee will be chaired by Judge Janet Ferris of the 2nd Judicial Circuit. Other members include Judge Theotis Bronson, 9th Judicial Circuit; Judge Burton Conner, 19th Judicial Circuit; Judge Robert Doyel, 10th Judicial Circuit; Judge Ronald Rothschild, 17th Judicial Circuit; Judge Deborah White-Labora, Dade County; Mike Bridenback, Trial Court Administrator, 13th Judicial Circuit; Judge Carol Taylor, 4th District Court of Appeal; and Ezelle Alexander, Pam McOwen, Sandra O'Brien, Kathy Reuter, Melvin Rubin, and Honggang Yang.

In the Administrative Order, Chief Justice Wells directed the ADR Policy Committee to:

1. Recommend for consideration changes in administrative policy and training standards that would enhance the goals of alternative dispute resolution.
2. Monitor trends in the field and identify the need for changes in rules that would enhance the

goals of alternative dispute resolution in order to make recommendations to the Supreme Court Committee on ADR Rules.

3. Assess how courts are handling mediation cases, including where domestic violence is present, and develop recommendations for model practices for handling cases as appropriate.
4. Assess and develop, if appropriate, recommendations for handling criminal cases in a manner consistent with the principles of restorative justice.
5. Recommend ways that courts can empower litigants to resolve their own disputes through the development of communication and conflict resolution skills and the availability of a variety of dispute resolution forums.
6. Enable implementation of the policy directions of the Chief Justice's Operational Plan specific to alternative dispute resolution.
7. Review requests from individuals seeking waivers of the qualifications required for arbitrators and mediators and make recommendations for or against certification to the Supreme Court.
8. Monitor the continuing mediation education, mentorship, and basic mediation and arbitration training requirements and recommend revisions as appropriate.
9. Coordinate with other Supreme Court Committees to further the ADR goals of the Court.
10. Perform such other assignments related to alternative dispute resolution as may be directed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The ADR Rules Committee is the successor to the Mediation and Arbitration Rules Committee which was created in 1989 and chaired by Larry Watson. The Rules Committee was responsible for recommending the revisions to the Rules of Civil Procedures governing mediation and arbitration, the addition to the Florida Juvenile Rules for dependency mediation procedures, and the creation of the Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators which contains the standards of conduct for media-

*continued on page 8*

**ADR** *from page 7*

tors and the rules of discipline. Other members of the Rules Committee included: Judge Lance Andrews, Mary Cadwell, Charles Castagna, John Cosgrove, Helen Gordon Davis, Dee Anna Farnell, Harry Goodheart, William Green, Robert Moberly, Mel Rubin, Arden Siegendorf, Linda Soud, and Bo Ward.

The ADR Rules Committee will be chaired by Judge Shawn Briese of the 7th Judicial Circuit, who is the former chair of the Supreme Court Committee on Mediation and Arbitration Training, and current member of the Mediator Qualifications Board. Other appointees to the newly organized Rules Committee include: Judge Tom Bateman, 2nd Judicial Circuit; Judge Linda Dakis, Dade County; Judge Lynn Tepper, 6th Judicial Circuit; Judge W. Matthew Stevenson, 4th DCA; Ruben Carrerou, Trial Court Administrator 11th Judicial Circuit; Robin Davis, Greg Firestone, Javier Perez-Abreu, Meah Tell, and Larry Watson.

In the Administrative Order, the Chief Justice directed the ADR Rules Committee to:

1. Monitor court rules governing ADR procedures and recommend to the Court necessary amendments.
2. Monitor legislation and trends in the field and when necessary and appropriate, recommend rules

regarding the implementation of ADR procedures.

3. Recommend for consideration changes in administrative policies and statutes that would enhance the goals of alternative dispute resolution.
4. Evaluate the need for and, if appropriate, recommend rules to govern the appropriate use of mediation in delinquency and criminal cases.
5. Make such other recommendations as would improve the use of mediation, arbitration, and other alternatives to supplement the judicial process.

The meeting schedule for the new committees is being drafted and will be announced along with work plans for the year. ☺



**Sharon Press** is the director of the Florida Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) in the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA). She is responsible for oversight and development of the court's ADR program including the administrative aspects of the court-connected mediation program (e.g. certification, training, and discipline of mediators).

Sharon can be reached at (850) 921-2910 or by e-mail to [presss@flcourts.org](mailto:presss@flcourts.org).

## Committee for Review and Notification of Criminal and Juvenile Legislation Meets

As reported in the May/June 2001 issue of *Full Court Press*, the Committee for Review and Notification of Criminal and Juvenile Legislation was established in March 2001 to identify new legislation that will require revisions to judicial forms, rules or jury instructions, and monitor the timely implementation of the new legislation. The committee was also charged with identifying new legislation that may warrant special continuing judicial education programs to assure adequate implementation of the new laws.

The committee met on May 18, 2001 at the Supreme Court in Tallahassee, with representatives from the Legislature and Governor's office, as well as other state agencies, in attendance. The Committee reviewed 25 new pieces of legislation to determine what

actions might be required by a judicial committee to implement them. It was determined that implementation issues arising from this year's legislation are relatively modest in comparison to other legislative sessions, and there are no issues to compel the Committee to prepare proposed amendments to rules or forms and that those functions should be left to the existing committees.

According to Committee Chair Judge Chris Altenbernd, 2<sup>nd</sup> DCA, "I was very impressed with how hard everyone worked at this meeting. Especially as a first meeting, it exceeded my expectations."

Next year's meeting has tentatively been scheduled for Friday, April 19, 2002. ☺

## Chief Judge Farina Elected as Chair of the Circuit Judges Conference

The Florida Conference of Circuit Judges (FCCJ) elected as chair **Chief Judge Joseph P. Farina**, Eleventh Circuit, during its Annual Business Meeting at Marco Island. The conference also selected Chief Judge Belvin Perry, Jr., Ninth Circuit, as chair-elect, and Judge Nelly N. Khouzam, Sixth Circuit, as secretary/treasurer.

Chief Judge Farina believes that this year will be a historic one for the Florida State Courts system and he is looking forward to working with his peers both within the judicial branch and the other branches of government.

“As Chair, my priorities for this year are safeguarding our system, enhancing our profession, servicing our public and benefitting our members,” remarked Chief Judge Farina. He added that the FCCJ would continue to serve as liaison for the Supreme Court, the Legislature and the Governor.

The Conference’s Executive Committee members from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002 are as follows:



*Chief Judge  
Joseph P. Farina*

Chair:	Honorable Joseph P. Farina - Eleventh Circuit
Immediate Past Chair:	Honorable Donald R. Moran, Jr. - Fourth Circuit
Chair-Elect:	Honorable Belvin Perry, Jr. - Ninth Circuit
Secretary/Treasurer:	Honorable Nelly N. Khouzam - Sixth Circuit
Judicial Education Chair:	Honorable Terry P. Lewis - Second Circuit
Judicial Education Vice-Chair:	Honorable Margaret O. Steinbeck - Twentieth Circuit
Budget Review Committee Chair:	Honorable Susan F. Schaeffer - Sixth Circuit
Civil Justice Section Chair:	Honorable Catherine M. Brunson - Fifteenth Circuit
Criminal Section Chair:	Honorable Stanford Blake - Eleventh Circuit
Family Law Section Chair:	Honorable Kenneth L. Williams - First Circuit
Juvenile Section Co-Chair Delinquency:	Honorable Hubert L. Grimes - Seventh Circuit
Juvenile Section Co-Chair Dependency:	Honorable Lisa Davidson - Eighteenth Circuit
Probate Section Chair:	Honorable Patricia V. Thomas - Fifth Circuit
Judicial Administration Section Chair:	Honorable Judy M. Pittman - Fourteenth Circuit
Retired Judges Section Chair:	Honorable J. Lewis Hall, Jr. - (Retired Judge)
Legislative Section Chair:	Honorable Judge Frederick B. Tygart - Fourth Circuit
Legislative Section Vice-Chair:	Honorable Gisela Cardonne - Eleventh Circuit
Legislative Section Vice-Chair:	Honorable Robert M. Evans - Ninth Circuit
Florida Council of 100 Representative:	Honorable James R. Case - Sixth Circuit
Chief Judge Representative:	Honorable William L. Blackwell - Twentieth Circuit
Chief Judge Representative:	Honorable Manuel Menendez, Jr. - Thirteenth Circuit
Chief Judge Representative:	Honorable Dale Ross - Seventeenth Circuit
First DCA Representative:	Honorable Kim Anthony Skievaski - First Circuit
Second DCA Representative:	Honorable Ronald N. Ficarrota - Thirteenth Circuit
Third DCA Representative:	Honorable Michael B. Chavies - Eleventh Circuit
Fourth DCA Representative:	Honorable Peter D. Blanc - Fifteenth Circuit
Fifth DCA Representative:	Honorable J. Preston Silvernail - Eighteenth Circuit

## County Conference Elects Officers and Sets Priorities

Palm Beach County Judge Jeffrey Colbath, was elected president of the Florida Conference of County Court Judges at its annual business meeting in July. Also elected were Dade County Judge Beth Bloom, president-elect, Palm Beach County Judge Krista Marx, secretary, and Suwannee County Judge William Slaughter, treasurer. Also, Broward County Judge Peggy Gehl will serve as the *County Court Courier* editor.



*Judge Jeffrey Colbath*

Judge Colbath feels that the two most important issues for the Conference in 2001-2002 will be court funding related to Revision 7 implementation and educating Florida's citizens about the role and function of the courts in their communities.

In regards to court funding, Judge Colbath said, "It is going to take a cooperative effort from all branches of government to ensure the transition to a state-funded court system is as seamless as possible, and the FCCCJ will strive to make that possible."

At the same time, FCCCJ will serve as an informational resource to the citizens of Florida. "Developing broader relationships with those in our community who we are committed to serve is a great

priority," said Judge Colbath. "This includes our state Legislators. We are always available as a reference in matters concerning the judiciary and invite lawmakers into our courtrooms for an up-close look at what takes place on the bench."

The Conference of County Court Judges of Florida consists of active and retired county judges serving in each of the 67 counties in Florida. Established in 1973 with less than 150 judges, the Conference has grown in membership to more than 270 judges. The goals of



*FCCCJ President Jeffrey Colbath and President-Elect Beth Bloom enjoy family fun time at meeting.*

the Conference have always been to ensure the betterment of the judicial system, to improve court rules, procedures and practices and to provide a forum for the continuing education of all county judges. The Conference also provides a venue where county judges can meet and discuss mutual problems and formulate solutions.

The Conference's leadership for 2001 - 2002 is:

**Officers:**

- President: **Honorable Jeffrey Colbath** - Palm Beach County
- President-elect: **Honorable Beth Bloom** - Dade County
- Past President: **Honorable Eugene C. Turner** - Collier County
- Secretary: **Honorable Krista Marx** - Palm Beach County
- Treasurer: **Honorable William R. Slaughter, II** - Suwannee County
- County Court Courier Editor: **Honorable Peggy Gehl** - Broward County

**District Vice Presidents:**

- First: **Honorable David Ackerman** - Escambia County
- Second: **Honorable Augustus D. Aikens, Jr.** - Leon County
- Third: **Honorable Mark King Leban** - Dade County
- Fourth: **Honorable Lisa G. Trachman** - Broward County
- Fifth: **Honorable A.B. Majeed** - Brevard County

**Circuit Representatives:**

1st Circuit:	Honorable Ronald Swanson - Santa Rosa County
2nd Circuit:	Honorable Timothy D. Harley - Leon County
3rd Circuit:	Honorable William R. Slaughter, II - Suwannee County
4th Circuit:	Honorable Charles G. Cofer - Duval County
5th Circuit:	Honorable Mark Yerman - Citrus County
6th Circuit:	Honorable Patrick K. Caddell - Pinellas County
7th Circuit:	Honorable Patti A. Christensen - St. Johns County
8th Circuit:	Honorable James P. Nilon - Alachua County
9th Circuit:	Honorable Jeffery Arnold - Orange County
10th Circuit:	Honorable Olin W. Shinholser - Highlands County
11th Circuit:	Honorable Carroll J. Kelly - Dade County
12th Circuit:	Honorable Robert A. Farrance - Manatee County
13th Circuit:	Honorable James V. Dominguez - Hillsborough County
14th Circuit:	Honorable Robert E. Brown - Holmes County
15th Circuit:	Honorable Kenneth Stern - Palm Beach County
16th Circuit:	Honorable Ruth Becker-Painter - Monroe County
17th Circuit:	Honorable Joel Lazarus - Broward County
18th Circuit:	Honorable David E. Silverman - Brevard County
19th Circuit:	Honorable Stewart R. Hershey - Martin County
20th Circuit:	Honorable Edward Volz, Jr. - Lee County

**Committee Chairs**

Administration and Management:	Honorable Henry Leyte-Vidal - Dade County
Awards and Merit:	Honorable Mary Rudd Robinson - Broward County
Civil Rules:	Honorable Ronald A. Legendre - Osceola County
Conference:	Honorable Cory J. Ciklin - Palm Beach County
Criminal Rules:	Honorable Olin W. Shinholser - Highlands County
Editorial:	Honorable Peggy Gehl - Broward County
Education:	Honorable C. Jeffery Arnold - Orange County
Judicial Assistants:	Honorable James V. Dominguez - Hillsborough County
Legislative:	Honorable Jay S. Spechler - Broward County / Honorable Shelley J. Kravitz - Dade County
Professional Relations:	Honorable Sheldon R. Schwartz - Dade County
Senior Judges:	Honorable William H. Seaver - Senior Judge
Sentencing:	Honorable Aymer L. Curtin - Alachua County
Small Claims:	Honorable Phyllis D. Kotey - Alachua County
Traffic Rules:	Honorable Peyton B. Hyslop - Hernando County

**President's Committee**

Court Technology:	Honorable Anne Kaylor - Polk County
Family and Juvenile:	Honorable Bonnie L. Rippingille - Dade County
Public Education of the Court Teams:	Honorable Beth F. Bloom - Dade County / Honorable Patrick K. Caddell - Pinellas County

## Sixteenth Circuit Celebrates Law Day

Students from Monroe County visited their local courthouses the week of May 1 to celebrate Law Day. Law Day was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958 to “strengthen our great heritage



*Judge Mark Jones with Key West High School students before trial.*

of liberty, justice and equality under law.” In 1961, a joint resolution of Congress declared May 1<sup>st</sup> the official date of Law Day. This year marked the 44<sup>th</sup> annual nationwide observance of the event. On April 18, 2001, the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners presented the circuit with a Proclamation designating May 1 as Law Day throughout Monroe County.

This year’s theme was “Protecting the Best Interests of our Children.” The Monroe County Bar Association sponsored a poster contest for elementary students and an essay contest for middle and high school students. Savings bonds and medallions were awarded in all categories and all entries were hung at each courthouse location.

In addition to the contests, students participated in a variety of mock trials from Key Largo to Key West. In Plantation Key, Judge Regan Ptomey hosted 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Key Largo School and Plantation Key School for the trial of State v. Jane B. Good. They were also treated to a question and answer session from Judge Ptomey and the courtroom personnel who assisted with the trial. Also in Plantation Key, Judge

Luis Garcia hosted middle school students from Key Largo School who were treated to a trip to the jury box, a jail tour and a question and answer session.

In Marathon, Vineyard Christian School watched morning arraignments and then had a question and answer session with Judge Ruth Becker and her staff. Stanley Switlik Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> graders also visited with Judge Becker at the Marathon Courthouse. They performed the trial of Goldilocks dressed in costumes!

In Key West, Judge Mark Jones presided over the case of Andrew v. Springville School System, tried by students from Key West High School. Judge Susan Vernon hosted Girl Scout Troop 540 who performed the trial of Goldilocks. The girls were also treated to a question and answer session and even got to try on Judge Vernon’s robe! Judge Richard Payne hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> graders from Gerald Adams Elementary. They per-



*Judge Susan Vernon meets with girl scouts.*

formed the trial of Goldilocks. So many kids wanted to participate that Judge Payne picked three juries.

Special thanks goes out to the State Attorney’s Office, the Public Defender’s Office and the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department for assisting throughout the Keys with the trials. Thanks also goes out to the Monroe County Bar Association for sponsoring the poster and essay contest and donating the prizes. ♪

## Florida's Courts Implement Online Procurement System

The Office of the State Courts Administrator has become the first state-level agency to implement an online procurement system by joining with *Demandstar.com*. The new system comes at no cost to the courts, as vendors that participate with *Demandstar.com* pay an annual fee to participate on either a county, state or national basis.

*Demandstar.com* has two primary services. The first, *Quotewire*, allows government entities to notify vendors of informal solicitations along with product or service specifications. Vendors receive requests electronically and can respond online. By sending, receiving and automatically tabulating supplier responses, the time and effort necessary for both the agency and supplier is greatly reduced.

The second, *Bidwire*, notifies vendors of formal bid opportunities by either e-mail or fax. Vendors select standardized commodity codes to identify their type of business. Procurement staff select the commodity codes that relate to the goods or services that are to be purchased, insuring that there is an appropriate match with the vendors. Vendors wishing to respond can obtain bid documents from *DemandStar.com* and then submit proposals directly to the customer. In addition to notification, the *Demandstar.com* system allows for bids to be amended electronically and for bid awards to be posted on the Internet.

With more than 20,000 participating vendors, *Demandstar.com* increases competition, while decreasing administrative time and costs associated with bid and quotes notification. The system automatically provides a report on all vendors notified of a quote or bid solicitation. In addition, the *Demandstar.com* system maintains an up to date library of previously issued bids along with bid specification from hundreds of participating jurisdictions. Bid tabulation data from other jurisdictions can be used for budgeting and comparative price analyses.

The *Demandstar.com* program was made available to the district courts of appeal during the past year. Current plans call for all of the trial courts to be provided an orientation on the *Demandstar.com* system within the next two months.

For more information on *Demandstar.com*, contact Tom Long, OSCA's Chief of General Services, 850-487-2373. ☞

## Supreme Court History

### Justice Fred H. Davis



Justice Fred H. Davis

Fred Henry Davis, the 42nd Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, was remarkable for the youthful age at which he attained numerous state offices and honors. In 1914, while only six months out of high school, Davis received the highest score on the Florida Bar exam. In those days, a law-school diploma was not necessary to practice law, provided the applicant could demonstrate sufficient skill with legal principles. Davis was able to demonstrate such skill. However, he was so young that before he could be sworn as a lawyer, he had to petition a Florida judge to remove the legal disabilities attached to minors. His request was quickly granted and, at age eighteen, his remarkable legal career began.

He was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1921 while in his mid-20s. By age 33 Davis took office as the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives -- a job he soon left to become Florida Attorney General, a cabinet-level executive office. He left two years later when he was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court.

By age 38, Justice Davis became the youngest Chief Justice in Florida history. In addition, he added yet another first to his career: Justice Davis is the first and only person to hold leadership positions in all three branches of Florida government. Amazingly, this was achieved at an age when many individuals have barely launched their careers.

Justice Davis remained a hardworking member of the Court until his death in 1937. During his tenure, he authored more than 1,000 opinions and was said to have spent so much time working at night that the night watchmen were loyal acquaintances. ☞

## A Special Thanks

A special thanks to all Florida judges who so generously give of their time and share their expertise with other judges by teaching at the following judicial education programs:

### **2001 Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges**

The Honorable John Adams  
 The Honorable Chris W. Altenbernd  
 The Honorable Scott Bernstein  
 The Honorable W. Lowell Bray, Jr.  
 The Honorable Scott M. Brownell  
 The Honorable Nikki Ann Clark  
 The Honorable Stephen L. Dakan  
 The Honorable Daniel P. Dawson  
 The Honorable David A. Demers  
 The Honorable Jack Espinosa  
 The Honorable Robert M. Evans  
 The Honorable Alex E. Ferrer  
 The Honorable Gill S. Freeman  
 The Honorable Michael A. Genden  
 The Honorable George W. Greer  
 The Honorable Barbara Gurrola  
 The Honorable Henry Harnage  
 The Honorable James C. Hauser  
 The Honorable Claudia R. Isom  
 The Honorable Lawrence R. Kirkwood  
 The Honorable Ellen Leesfield  
 The Honorable Martha Ann Lott  
 The Honorable Melanie G. May  
 The Honorable Timothy P. McCarthy  
 The Honorable Peggy A. Quince  
 The Honorable Robert Scola, Jr.  
 The Honorable James Seals  
 The Honorable Kim A. Skievaski  
 The Honorable Hugh Starnes  
 The Honorable Margaret O. Steinbeck  
 The Honorable Irene Sullivan

The Honorable Charles T. Wells  
 The Honorable Alice Blackwell White

### **Pilot Project, Family Violence Prevention Fund**

The Honorable Cecilia Altonaga  
 The Honorable Phyllis Kotey

### **Training for Trainers (Florida Judicial College's Mentor Program)**

The Honorable Scott M. Brownell  
 The Honorable Lisa Davidson

### **2001 Annual Business Meeting of the Conference of County Court Judges of Florida**

The Honorable C. Jeffery Arnold  
 The Honorable Patrick K. Caddell  
 The Honorable Barry M. Cohen  
 The Honorable David A. Demers  
 The Honorable Peter M. Evans  
 The Honorable Mary Catherine Green  
 The Honorable Karl B. Grube  
 The Honorable Phyllis D. Kotey  
 The Honorable Mark King Leban  
 The Honorable Bonnie L. Rippingille  
 The Honorable William R. Slaughter, II  
 The Honorable Kenneth Stern

## Legal Briefs



**Justice Major B. Harding Honored**  
*NCSC President Roger K. Warren presents Justice Major B. Harding with the 2001 Distinguished Service Award as Chief Justice Charles T. Wells looks on.*

Justice Major B. Harding was awarded the 2001 National Center for State Courts' Distinguished Service Award at The Florida Bar's Judicial Luncheon. Roger K. Warren, president of the National Center, presented Justice Harding with the award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the administration of justice nationally and to the work of the National Center.

Justice Harding has been instrumental on a national level promoting innovation and reform in judicial processes. During Justice Harding's tenure as Florida's Chief Justice in 1998 - 2000, he was appointed to serve as Chair of the Conference of Chief Justices' National Task Force on Problem Solving Courts. Under Chief Justice Harding's leadership, the committee's work led to adoption by the Conference of a resolution calling for "the broad integration of the principles and methods employed in problem-solving courts into the administration of justice..." ❖

**Margie Howard** has left her position as Chief of Personnel Services at the Office of the State Courts Administrator to accept a career opportunity with Tallahassee Community College as Human Resources Director.

Effective August 1, 2001, **David Pepper**, Personnel Management Analyst will serve as Acting Chief of Personnel Services until Ms. Howard's successor is chosen.

The Florida Academy of Professional Mediators (FAPM) will present **Sharon Press**, director of the Florida Dispute Resolution Center in the Office of the State Courts Administrator, with its Award of Merit at the Dispute Resolution Center's Conference for Mediators and Arbitrators in August in Orlando. The award is the highest honor that the Florida Academy of Professional Mediators can bestow. It is awarded to that individual who has been deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to the growth, development and advancement of mediation in Florida. The selection committee is chaired by the president-elect of the Academy, a representative of his/her choosing, a representative of the president and all past recipients.



**Sharon Press**

According to Gerry Levin, president of the FAPM, "When you think about the criteria for this award, Sharon Press comes to mind as a natural. For more than ten years she has been a dominating leader, a teacher, a politician (when she has to be), a mentor and a friend to mediators and to the advancement of the mediation process and the practice of mediation throughout the state. She is one of our own and the Academy congratulates her on receiving our highest honor." ❖

**August**

- 21-25 The Florida Bar Board of Governors Meeting, Naples
- 22 Mediation and Arbitration Program Coordinators Meeting, Orlando
- 22-23 Trial Court Technology Committee, Tallahassee
- 22-26 Annual Conference of National Association of State Judicial Educators (NASJE), Williamsburg
- 23-25 DRC 10th Annual Conference for Mediators and Arbitrators, Orlando
- 28 Children's Court Improvement Committee, 12:00 noon, Orlando
- 29-31 5th Annual Dependency Court Improvement Summit, Orlando

**September**

- 3 Labor Day - Court Closed
- 6-8 County Mediation Training, Ocala
- 10-14 College of Advanced Judicial Studies, Palm Harbor
- 13-14 Trial Court Budget Commission Meeting, Tampa
- 14 Guardianship Monitoring Committee of the Commission on Fairness, Tampa
- 18 Rosh Hashanah - Court Closed
- 20 Florida Bar Foundation Board & Committee Meetings, Tampa
- 27 Yom Kippur - Court Closed
- 30-10/5 American Judges Association Annual Meeting, Reno, Nevada

Note: *The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on 8/27-8/31.*

Courtside  
Events

*Full Court Press* is published bi-monthly by Florida's Office of the State Courts Administrator. Readers may submit articles about the courts system or letters regarding the newsletter's coverage of court-related issues. All rights are reserved to edit or decline any material submitted for publication. Send your correspondence to *Full Court Press*, Supreme Court of Florida, 500 S. Duval Street, Tallahassee FL 32399-1900.

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Charles T. Wells  
**Chief Justice**

Brenda G. Johnson  
**Chief of Communication and Legislative Relations**

Kelly Sciba  
**Editor**

Roopali Kambo  
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