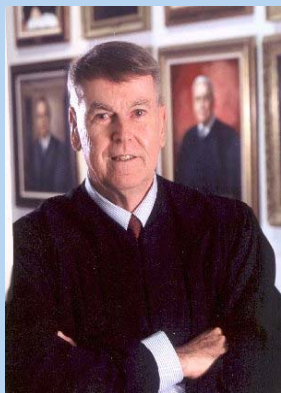


# FULL COURT PRESS

## *A Message from Chief Justice Anstead*



As we prepare for the winter holidays and the coming of the new year, it is important that we take a few moments out of our busy schedules to be thankful for our family, friends, and freedom. While we enjoy the comfort of our homes, many Americans face danger in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. Their faithful service to our country is an act that can never be

repaid or forgotten.

So much has happened over the past few years. Since September 11, 2001, there has been a renewed focus on the Rule of Law, both within our society and as a critical component in other governments around the world. In the United States, the Rule of Law is essentially carried out by the state courts, where 95-percent of judicial activity in this country takes place. State courts are the

Rule of Law. To maintain the Rule of Law, the Florida court system has a vision: that justice in Florida will be accessible, fair, effective, responsive, and accountable. This vision has been the courts' foundation for many years; a solid foundation that cannot be jeopardized.

As you know, beginning July 1st of next year when Revision 7 is implemented, there will be changes in our trial courts. My priority is to ensure our courts receive adequate funding and that there be "Justice for all Floridians." Florida's courts are at a crossroads. Revision 7 is here in full force and I believe Florida residents and businesses deserve an adequately funded justice system that can continue to effectively and efficiently protect the rights and freedoms our citizens value so dearly.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all members of the Florida Courts System for your tireless efforts over the past year. You make a difference to millions of Floridians. Take the time to be thankful for the many gifts you receive everyday.

Happy Holidays!

*Harry Lee Anstead*

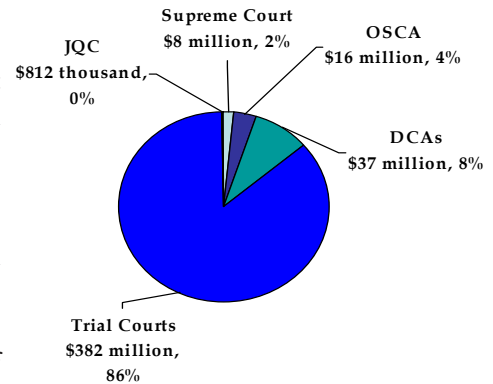
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# Judicial Branch Budget: 2004 Legislative Budget Request

By Jennifer Hirst, Communications Coordinator  
Office of the State Courts Administrator

The FY 2004-2005 Legislative Budget Request for the Judicial Branch totals approximately \$444 million. Of that amount, \$170.6 million is for state assumption of essential elements that are necessary to operate the trial courts, as outlined in HB 113-A, the Revision 7 implementation legislation. This \$170.6 million is not a request for additional court funding, but rather a request that the state fully fund those essential court costs that are shifting from county budgets to the state. Further, each year the Supreme Court issues its opinion certifying the need for new judges throughout the State of Florida, a requirement imposed upon the Court by the state Constitution. The legislature has the final say as to whether new judgeships are created and funded. On December 18, 2003, the Supreme Court of Florida released its opinion on the certification of new judges, stating the need for 88 new judgeships statewide (51 circuit judges, 33 county judges, and 4 district court of appeal judges). Since the opinion was released so recently, the 88 judgeships will not be included in the following budgetary charts and tables. Further analysis and information on the Legislative Budget Request, including the status of judicial certification, will be provided in the next issue of the *Full Court Press*.



**Total SCS 2004-05 Funding = \$444 Million. Assumption of Essential Elements Under Revision 7 = \$170.6 Million of That Total.**

## SUPREME COURT

Current Budget for FY 2003 - 2004	\$ 7,200,000
New Requests for FY 2004 - 2005	\$ 969,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,000,000</b>

Workload	\$ 187,000	\$969 Thousand
Equipment	\$ 94,000	
Facilities	\$ 320,000	
Supreme Court Truck Replacement	\$ 15,000	
Security/Emergency Operations Requirements	\$ 281,000	
Supreme Court Library Funding	\$ 72,000	

## OFFICE OF THE STATE COURTS ADMINISTRATOR

Current Budget for FY 2003 - 2004	\$ 13,000,000
New Requests for FY 2004 - 2005	\$ 3,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 16,000,000</b>

Community & Intergovernmental Relations	\$ 50,000	\$3 Million
Video Teleconferencing & Network Bandwidth Expansion	\$ 489,000	
Justice Teaching Institute Support	\$ 30,000	
Fund Shift from Family Courts Trust Fund	\$ 443,000	
Court Education Trust Fund	\$ 155,000	
Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund	\$ 52,000	
Workload	\$ 172,000	
Revision 7 Implementation	\$ 1,600,000	
Revision 7 Legal Materials	\$ 138,000	

**DISTRICT COURTS of APPEAL (excluding certification)**

Current Budget for FY 2003 - 2004	\$35,500,000
New Requests for FY 2004 - 2005	\$ 2,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$37,500,000</b>

Restore Salary Lapse	\$ 396,000	\$2 Million
Law Clerk Diversity	\$ 10,000	
Workload	\$ 282,000	
Facility/Maintenance	\$ 410,000	
Security	\$ 21,000	
Increased Operating Expenses	\$ 82,000	
Leave Liability	\$ 65,000	

**TRIAL COURT (excluding certification)**

Current Budget for FY 2003 - 2004	\$213,000,000
New Requests for FY 2004 - 2005	\$170,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$383,000,000</b>

Family Court Positions	\$ 5,500,000	\$170 Million
Court Administration	\$ 22,500,000	
Court Reporting	\$ 26,100,000	
Reporting Services Paid to the Clerk	\$ 866,000	
Interpreting	\$ 8,600,000	
Expert Witness	\$ 6,200,000	
Case Management	\$ 13,700,000	
Master and Hearing Officers	\$ 20,400,000	
Child Support Hearing Officers	\$ 3,600,000	
Mediation and Arbitration	\$ 11,000,000	
Law Clerks	\$ 28,400,000	
Judge and Judicial Assistant Support	\$ 13,300,000	
Technology	\$ 7,200,000	
Resource Management	\$ 1,500,000	

**Judicial Qualifications Commission**

Current Budget for FY 2003 - 2004	\$ 812,000
New Requests for FY 2004 - 2005	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 812,000</b>

# Trial Court Funding Budgetary Unification of the State Courts System

Budgetary unification of the State Courts System is the final step in eliminating the fiscal fragmentation that has resulted in disparities in the quality and availability of court services. State funding will lead to a true state court system – a quality court system in every courthouse.

In the 2003-04 budget year, the court budget equaled less than 1% of the total state budget. The implementation of Revision 7 will have a relatively small fiscal impact on the State – 170 million state dollars for the trial courts are needed in addition to the current budget to implement Revision 7. The trial courts are not asking for new services and programs to be funded by the State when Revision 7 is implemented. We are asking for adequate funding for the elements that are necessary to run the courts as outlined in the implementing legislation (HB 113-A).

## ADJUDICATION

### Judges

Certification (placeholder)	\$15.5 million
Judge & JA expense-to-base	\$12.2 million
Senior Judges	\$550 thousand
Temporary Judicial Assistants (JA)	\$550 thousand
Law Clerks (353 FTE)	\$28.4 million
Masters & Hearing Officers (237.5 FTE)	\$24.08 million

## DUE PROCESS

Court Reporting (224.5 FTE)	\$26.93 million
Court Interpreting (102 FTE)	\$8.59 million
Expert Witnesses (14 FTE)	\$6.24 million
Fund Shift From FCTF (5 FTE)	\$228 thousand
Legal Materials Available to the Public (1 FTE)	\$138 thousand

## CASE PROCESSING

Case Management (212.5 FTE)	\$13.7 million
Fund Shift From FCTF (93 FTE)	\$5 million
Mediation (152 FTE)	\$11 million
Fund Shift From FCTF (1 FTE)	\$81 thousand

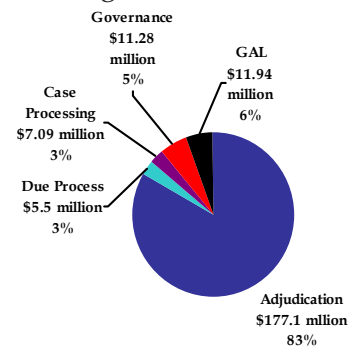
## GOVERNANCE

Trial Court Administration (241.5 FTE)	\$22.5 million
Fund Shift from FCTF (5 FTE)	\$199 thousand
Resource Management System	\$1.5 million
OSCA Implementation (17.5 FTE)	\$1.5 million
Inspector General Workload (1 FTE)	\$74 thousand

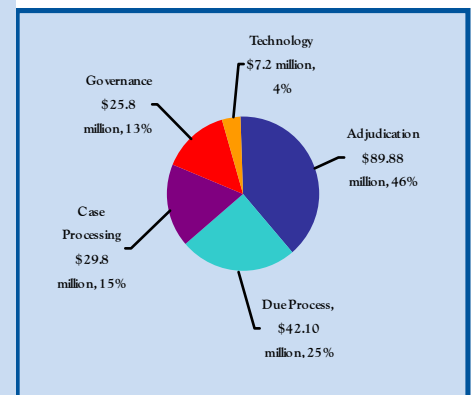
## TECHNOLOGY

Technology (17 FTE)	\$7.2 million
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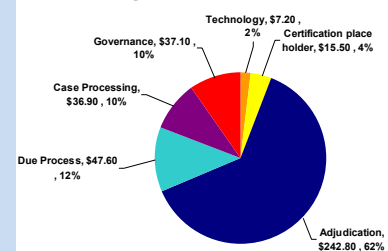
## Current State Trial Court Budget \$212.9 million



## LBR for Revision 7 costs \$170.6 million



## Post-Revision 7 Trial Court Budget \$387.1 million



## What Is Included in Adjudication, Case Processing, Due Process, and Governance?

### Adjudication

**Judges & Judicial Assistants** - officers who exercise the judicial powers of the state as required by Article V of the Florida Constitution, and their personal staff.



**Law Clerks** - staff who provide research assistance and other legal support to judges in order to expedite cases.

**Masters & Hearing Officers** - personnel responsible for supporting and supplementing judicial efforts by performing judicial functions

that are ministerial, computational, or managerial in nature in preparation of a final decision by a judge.

### Case Processing

**Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation** - providing efficient and cost effective options to adversarial litigation. Mediation optimizes litigant participation in the resolution of disputes, resulting in more effective use of judicial resources.

**Case Managers** - staff who conserve judicial time and facilitate quality, timely, and efficient case processing by performing initial review and evaluation of cases and, screening, evaluation, monitoring, tracking, coordinating, scheduling, and referral activities leading to the disposition of a case.



### Due Process

**Court Interpreting** - ensuring due process and constitutional rights of access to courts and equal protection by eliminating communication barriers based on disability or limited ability to understand English.

**Court Reporting** - ensuring due process rights by creating a verbatim record of words spoken in court, allowing for the preservation of those words and, when necessary, their timely and accurate transcription for appellate review.

**Court Appointed Expert Witnesses** - supporting adjudication and due process by providing independent expert testimony for the court pursuant to an express grant of statutory authority concerning scientific or technical matters in dispute, or the physical, psychological or mental condition of persons subject to the court in matters involving fundamental rights.



### Governance

**Court Administration** - allowing judges to efficiently carry out their constitutional responsibilities to adjudicate disputes presented to them and their constitutional and statutory responsibilities for governance of the judicial branch by providing executive direction, judicial operations management, and general administrative support services.



## The Bottom Line

Courts perform an essential function in our American system of government. They preserve the Rule of Law by upholding our laws, protecting individual rights, enforcing public order, and providing for the peaceful resolution of disputes.

Florida courts function with 11% fewer judges per capita than the national average, yet each judge handles about 31% more case filings per year than judges in other states.

Inadequate funding of the court elements will undermine the ability of the courts to handle cases promptly and to dispose of them without delay. If funding is reduced below minimum levels, backlogs are inevitable and vital public interests will be compromised.



## Revision 7 Communication Advisory Group Implements Phase II of “Justice for all Floridians”

By Chief Judge Belvin Perry, Jr., Ninth Judicial Circuit  
Chair, Revision 7 Communication Advisory Group

Almost two years ago, we began the process of developing an educational message about Revision 7 and the importance of maintaining court funding statewide. Today, that message is the foundation of a comprehensive information packet known as the “Justice for all Floridians” educational toolkit. This toolkit was designed to provide a consistent and unified message that judges, court staff and others in the judicial system could use to explain the work of the courts and issues of Revision 7.

Over the past two years, the advisory group has spent countless hours studying the intent of the amendment and related legislation and crafting a unified statewide message. We learned early on that the task at hand was much greater than anticipated. The message needed to appeal to broad audiences, including business leaders, legal professionals, legislators and the public. It needed to emphasize how critical Revision 7 legislation is to the future of our State Courts System and the future of the judicial process. And, it needed to move people to take action and become involved in what may be the greatest challenge Florida’s courts have ever faced.

The advisory group has chiseled, molded and polished a comprehensive educational message that:

- Defines the role of our courts,
- Explains the concerns of Revision 7,
- Questions what the future holds for Florida’s judiciary, and
- Calls for people to get involved.

Justice for all Floridians is a unified message that is relevant at both the state and local levels. It works as well in Hardee County as it does in Hillsborough County. The message is as effective in Titusville as it is in Tallahassee. It is

positive but to the point. It does not speculate on the future of our courts, but instead draws attention to previous effects of budget reductions in other states. It is a message that appeals to everyone, including the small business owner, corporate CEO, legal professional, or John Q. Public.

The “Justice for all Floridians” toolkit is exactly that - a toolkit of Power Point presentations, print materials, and videos that allows us to tell our story and explain, in a consistent voice, why continued and adequate funding of our courts is important to all Floridians.

I encourage each of you to visit the Florida Courts website at [www.flcourts.org](http://www.flcourts.org) to review the entire toolkit.

Members of the Article V Communications Advisory Group are:

Chief Judge Belvin Perry, Chair  
Judge Jeffrey Arnold  
Tod Aronovitz  
Judge Beth Bloom  
Mike Bridenback  
Chief Judge Joe Farina  
Judge Gary Farmer  
Jack Harkness  
Judge Paul Hawkes  
Judge Nelly Khouzam  
Judge A.B. Majeed  
Miles McGrane  
Kelly Overstreet-Johnson  
Judge Susan Schaeffer  
Judge Frederick Tygart



## Celebrating Adoptive Families

Submitted by the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

If only one out of 500 Americans adopted out of the foster care system, all these children would have permanent homes, according to officials of National Adoption Day. The hope of increasing adoptions of foster children is the impetus behind this annual event held on November 21st of each year. Through organizers' efforts to raise awareness of the foster children who are waiting to be adopted, many children's dream of a family and a place to call home will come true.

Florida has approximately 4,700 children in foster care currently needing adoption. Long concerned about addressing the legal needs of children, Chief Justice Harry Lee Anstead signed a proclamation and administrative order on November 7, 2003, supporting National Adoption Day. He encouraged all judicial circuits to participate by scheduling adoptions for foster children and conducting other events to honor the children and families.

In the Thirteenth Circuit, Judge Martha Cook presided over just such a special proceeding on Friday, November 21, 2003 in the new George Edgecomb Courthouse. "As an adoptive parent myself, I know the joy of adopting a child," Cook reveals. "That was one of the most wonderful days in our lives; it is the day that this precious child becomes part of your family forever." As a juvenile dependency court judge in the thirteenth circuit, Cook now has the honor of pronouncing other children and parents as families forever. Cook affirms, "It is one of the greatest joys of my job as a judge and I am blessed to be part of this wonderful event."

Hillsborough Kids, Inc. (HKI) organized efforts for this special day. HKI has more than 171 foster children waiting for prospective homes. According to Molly Langer, HKI Chief Operating Officer, there are more than 400 children in Hillsborough County with adoption goals where the court has already granted termination of parental rights, and only 229 of those have an identified family. The process to become an adoptive parent includes undergoing background checks, attending Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP) training, and receiving home studies. The entire process can usually be completed within eight months.

Last year, 277 total adoptions were granted in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. These court proceedings are memorable for families and judges alike; as Judge Charlene Honeywell expresses, "adoptive parents are the most grateful litigants to appear in family court."



## Court Administration Prepares for July 1, 2004

By Greg Cowan, Court Operations Consultant, Court Services  
Office of the State Courts Administrator

While it may not be a date that will live in infamy, December 7, 2003 is the date staff from the Office of the State Courts Administrator presented to the Trial Court Administrators a proposed continuity of operations plan designed to “keep the courts operating” beyond the now famous Revision 7 implementation deadline of July 1, 2004.

The continuity of operations plan presented on December 7 follows over two years of emergency preparedness efforts within the judicial branch, initiated by then Chief Justice Charles T. Wells. Based on those preparations, State Courts Administrator Lisa Goodner directed staff to develop and propose a plan designed to allow the courts to manage any potential fiscal emergencies that may arise during the transition embodied in Revision 7.

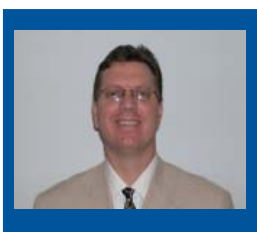
The presentation on December 7th represents the initial “roll-out” of this Revision 7 specific continuity of operations plan. The plan consists of three parts:

1. Preparing for the impact of Revision 7 on general administrative support;
2. Assessing the impact of Revision 7 on constitutional requirements, enumerated functions, and general administrative support; and
3. Responding to the impact of Revision 7 on constitutional requirements, enumerated functions, and general administrative support.

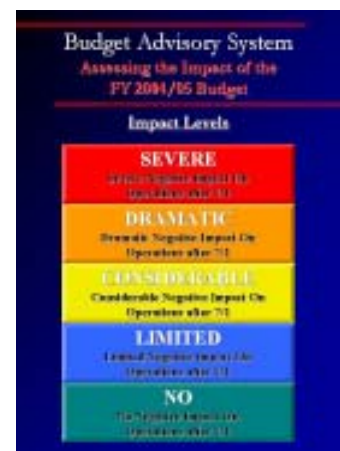
Preparedness efforts focus on developing and performing a series of tasks designed to ensure that general administrative support functions can be performed after July 1, 2004. These general administrative support functions broadly include: finance and accounting; procurement; contract management; grant management; budget services; and personnel services.

Assessment centers around the newly developed Budget Advisory System, modeled after the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Advisory System. Just as with the DHS system, the budget system consists of five, color coded levels. From lowest to highest, the color coded levels of the Budget Advisory System are: **Green** - No negative impact; **Blue** - Limited negative impact; **Yellow** - Considerable negative impact; **Orange** - Dramatic negative impact; and **Red** - Severe negative impact.

Using these impact levels will allow court administration and judicial leadership to communicate a more precise assessment of the impact of FY 2004/05 appropriations on court operations. This assessment will also facilitate the development of a more appropriate response to these appropriations. That response, the third step in the plan, will ensure we “keep the courts operating” after July 1, 2004.



Greg Cowan can be reached at (850)  
922-5460 or [cowan@flcourts.org](mailto:cowan@flcourts.org)





## Committee on Privacy and Court Records Established

By Craig Waters, Public Information Director  
Florida Supreme Court

As concerns continue to grow about private and confidential information being widely distributed through the electronic media, Chief Justice Harry Lee Anstead has taken action by establishing a Committee on Privacy and Court Records to begin work on a uniform statewide policy to make certain this information is filtered out of court records before it is made public through media, such as the Internet and bulk electronic access systems. The Committee will function as a study group making policy recommendations designed to protect the people of Florida when such information about them is contained in court records.

The administrative order appointing the committee tracks recommendations of two separate advisory bodies. An earlier report by the Florida JMC had urged that the Supreme Court act to protect the public. Earlier this year a legislative study group reached essentially the same conclusion.

At the heart of these recommendations is the growing concern that information like Social Security numbers, medical records, and financial disclosures contained in court records can be used to commit crimes such as fraud or identity theft. Some of this information also may be confidential under state or federal law, but no uniform mechanism is now in place to see that it is removed before electronic distribution.

In its earlier report, the JMC also noted widely varying practices followed by court clerks throughout Florida. Most do not yet post trial court documents on the World-Wide-Web, while others do. Among those that do, some post certain categories of cases but not others, while others post incompatible categories. This inconsistency itself is a potential problem, because legal rights of privacy and access normally must be treated the same statewide.

One of the more common complaints from Florida residents involves the placement of divorce documents on electronic distribution networks. The JMC noted that these records commonly contain detailed and deeply personal information about the private lives of the two parties and their children, unfounded or speculative claims of wrongdoing, and detailed information about financial assets. Frequently, confidential information is placed in documents along with information that is otherwise not confidential.

The problem is not unique to Florida. State and federal courts throughout the United States now are grappling with the issue. The Chief Justice of Texas recently appointed a Committee on Public Access to Court Records within the Texas Judicial Council, and last year the Chief Justice of New York appointed the Commission on Access to Court Records, both charged with developing statewide policy regarding electronic access to court records.

The order and committee members are available on the Florida Courts website at [www.flcourts.org](http://www.flcourts.org).

## **Making a Difference: Together We Can - 2003 Domestic Violence Summit**

By Joanne Snair, Senior Court Analyst  
Office of the State Courts Administrator

### **Making a Difference: Together We Can**

The theme of this year's statewide Domestic Violence Summit which was held on November 6 - 7, was "Making a Difference: Together we can," reflecting the reality that the courts are part of a larger community system charged with responding to the problem of domestic violence. The interdisciplinary focus was an integral part of each aspect of the Summit.

The keynote speakers—Judge Ernestine Gray, Past President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and Ms. Lynn Rosenthal, Executive Director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence—both offered compelling presentations supporting the need for effective, coordinated community responses to domestic violence from the judicial and the advocacy perspectives.

Workshops addressed a variety of topics, including law enforcement issues in Domestic Violence (DV) injunctions, mediation and DV, DV case law update, the role of Unified Family Courts in handling DV cases, clerks' best intake practices, and DV advocacy in the court system. Workshop presenters included judges, state and local law enforcement professionals, clerks' representatives, advocates, circuit court staff, and OSCA staff.

Professional development sessions enabled participants to meet with their colleagues from around the state to discuss challenges in handling domestic violence cases and to share problem solving strategies.

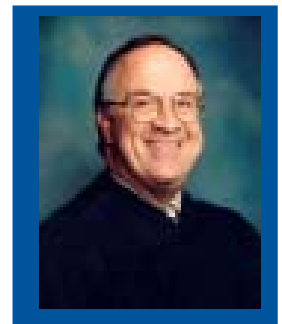
On Friday morning, participants from all professions met by judicial circuit in break-out sessions designed to identify effective local practices in handling DV cases, outline challenges to be addressed, and develop plans for actions to address those challenges.

Over 300 individuals attended the summit, including judges, clerks' staff, court administration staff, law enforcement, Department of Children and Families staff, advocates, probation staff, and DV shelter representatives.

### **Making a Difference Theme Put Into Practice: Judge Doyel Receives Commendation from the Chief Justice**

During the opening ceremony of the summit, Judge Raymond McNeal, of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, presented Circuit Judge Robert L. Doyel with a commendation from Chief Justice Harry Lee Anstead, on behalf of the Florida Supreme Court, recognizing and appreciating Judge Doyel's numerous and continuing contributions to Florida's court system in the area of domestic violence. After a moving statement from Judge McNeal as he presented the award, Summit participants showed their appreciation by rising to give Judge Doyel a standing ovation.

Judge Doyel also served as the Masters of Ceremonies for the Summit where he welcomed participants, presented several highlights from the recently completed DV court assessment, and introduced the keynote speakers



For more information about domestic violence court improvement efforts, please contact Joanne Snair in the Office of Court Improvement, Office of the State Courts Administrator, at 850-410-1889 or at [snairj@flcourts.org](mailto:snairj@flcourts.org).

## Outstanding Mentor Recognized by the Conference of Circuit Judges

By Cal Goodlett, Senior Attorney, Court Education  
Office of the State Courts Administrator

County Court Judge David E. Silverman was recently honored as the first recipient of the Florida Judicial College's Mentor of the Year Award. Presented by Mentor Program Director, Eighteenth Circuit Judge Lisa Davidson at the conclusion of the Advanced Mentor Training program at Amelia Island on December 10, 2003, the award recognizes the important work undertaken by all members of the judiciary who serve as mentors to new judges throughout the state. This inaugural award honors Judge Silverman, in particular, for his outstanding contribution to the program in 2003.

The Mentor Program pairs those newly elected and appointed to the bench with experienced trial court judges in their respective circuits. Mentor judges provide information and assistance helpful to newest members of the state's judiciary throughout their first year on the bench. Appointed by the Chief Justice for a two-year term, 83 circuit judges and 38 county judges currently serve as mentors. Appointments are ordinarily made in late summer.

For further information about the Florida Judicial College's Mentor Program, you may contact the Mentor Program Director, Circuit Judge Lisa Davidson in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit at (321) 617-7281, or by email at [lisa.davis@flcourts18.org](mailto:lisa.davis@flcourts18.org).



Judge Silverman accepts award from Mentor Program Director, Judge Lisa Davidson

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## Office of Court Improvement Creates Bi-Monthly Newsletter

*The OCI Files*, created by staff of the Office of the State Courts Administrator, Office of Court Improvement, under the direction of Patricia Badland, Chief of the OCI, will be distributed every other month, beginning in November, 2003. The newsletter will give readers information they need to stay current on issues related to families and children in the courts. Judges, court staff, and partners will be able to keep up with what is happening around the state as we strive for standards of excellence in shaping systems that resolve family problems. The newsletter includes various direct links to broader court issues and documents, making it easier to delve deeper into a readers' particular interests or concerns.

The first edition can be found on the Florida Courts website at <http://www.flcourts.org/osca/divisions/family/ocinewsletter.pdf>, and will be distributed via hard copy. Future editions will be distributed electronically. Also, the first edition includes a special domestic violence insert.

## Courts Respond to Increased Media Attention

By Craig Waters, Public Information Director  
Florida Supreme Court

This year in St. Petersburg, a restless contingent of news reporters sought any fragment of information related to the controversial court case of Terri Schiavo, whose husband and parents were locked in a bitter legal dispute over the medical life support provided to her.

In Miami, the controversial “Free Trade Area of the Americas Summit” forced downtown area courthouses to close as thousand of protesters – followed by scores of reporters – flooded into the bayfront area for a news story with international implications.



Public Information Director Craig Waters addresses a crowd of reporters.

These are only two recent examples of increasing news involving Florida’s courts. The handling of both cases included a key ingredient relatively new to routine court operations. Public Information Officers (PIO) Ron Stuart in St. Petersburg and Nan Markowitz in Miami-Dade have brought to their courts a degree of media savvy that would have been lacking only a few years earlier. They helped steer their courts through increasingly complex demands being placed on judges by the so-called “new media”—the 24-hour news networks, the instant Internet news services, and even the more traditional media now forced to imitate their high-tech competitors.

Now, because of emergency planning after September 11, 2001, every Florida circuit and district court has designated a court staff member to serve as a PIO. Most hold primary jobs in unrelated fields, and some are court administrators or marshals. Nonetheless, Florida appears to be the first state in the nation to name PIOs in every jurisdiction of its courts system.

Their appointment as PIOs was a key goal of a statewide task force appointed by former Chief Justice Charles T. Wells, which he charged with developing a roadmap to keep the courts open even in the face of crises. This work has been continued by current Chief Justice Harry Lee Anstead.

Based in part on the Florida courts’ experience in the 2000 presidential election lawsuits, the task force concluded that effective communication with the media was an essential ingredient in overcoming many kinds of crises. Courts here and elsewhere in the nation have learned that a failure to develop sound media communications strategies can disrupt judicial operations in and of itself, sometimes physically, sometimes by creating false impressions about what courts have done.

This is part of a growing national trend recognizing that, while courts do not engage in public relations in its broadest sense, they still must manage their communications with the press and the public just as they have developed management techniques for handling caseloads, processing documents, and so forth. And that requires employing individuals who have or can develop skills to deal with the ever growing media barrage—PIOs.

In 1999, an existing informal group of judicial PIOs incorporated itself as the Conference of Court Public Information Officers with a special emphasis on professional and continuing education. An affiliate of the National Center for State Courts, its membership has grown to include representatives from most of the states, as well as, Canada, and Australia. Florida's six members are the second largest state contingent, surpassed only by California's seven members.

Florida state courts now are working closely with CCPIO to develop Florida-specific training programs for our PIOs. CCPIO in cooperation with the National Center for Courts & Media at the National Judicial College in Reno hopes to secure grant funding to work with the Florida state courts to host these educational programs.

Below is a list of individuals who serve as PIOs:

### CIRCUIT COURT CONTACTS

1st	Wayne Peacock
2nd	Doug Smith
3rd	Barbara Ceryak
4th	James Gardner
5th	David Trammell
6th	Ron Stuart
7th	Mark Weinberg
8th	Barbara Dawicke
9th	Karen Levey
10th	Nick Sudzina
11th	Nan Markowitz
12th	Fay Rice
13th	Calvin Green
14th	Jennifer Wells
15th	Rick Hussey
16th	Holly Elomina
17th	Carol Ortman
18th	Michelle Kennedy
19th	Cathy Buzzolani
20th	Ken Kellum

### APPELLATE COURT CONTACTS

1st DCA	Jon S. Wheeler & Don Brannon
2nd DCA	Velma Johnson
3rd DCA	Dot Monroe
4th DCA	Glen Rubin
5th DCA	John Bogdanoff



\* Craig Waters is the PIO for the Florida Supreme Court. A 17-year Court employee, Waters worked for many years as a staff attorney before assuming his current role part-time in 1996 and full-time in 1998. Before attending the University of Florida law school from 1983 to 1986, he was an award-winning reporter with the Gannett Newspapers, spending his first two years covering state and federal courts in Pensacola and his last two years covering state government in Tallahassee.



## Court Members On Military Leave

### Grant Slayden

Major Grant Slayden, the Second Judicial Circuit Court Administrator, was called to active duty on January 25th of this year as the operations officer for his air defense battalion. His unit provides security for MacDill AFB - including United States Central Command and United States Special Operations Command - during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Grant's unit has also been conducting intensive training for its next mission, to provide air defense for the National Capital Region in Washington, D.C. Grant is not deploying for a second year with his unit, but instead will be released from active duty in late December 2003 to serve in a new capacity. Grant is eager to resume his duties in the Second Judicial Circuit, and ready to spend more time with his family, including his wife Kris Slayden, a Senior Court Statistics Consultant with the OSCA, and their four children.



### Robert P. Strzalka, Jr.



Robert P. Strzalka, Marshal of the Second District Court of Appeal, headquartered in Lakeland, has been serving his country since April 2003 as a member of the Criminal Investigation Division of the U.S. Army Reserve in Iraq. The court, Robert's wife Janie, and their three daughters are looking forward to his return to Lakeland within the next few months.

### Frederick Pearson

Frederick Pearson, OPS Administrative Assistant for the OSCA, was deployed to Kuwait in early February 2003, prior to going to Iraq. His unit was among the first troops sent into Iraq. He is due to return home on February 20, 2004. His 6-year-old daughter, Alexandria, mother, brothers and sister live in Tallahassee. Frederick was recently granted a two week pass to come home where he was greeted warmly by the OSCA and Supreme Court family.



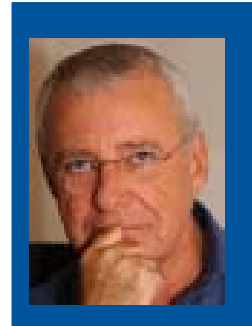
Frederick visits with friends at the Supreme Court Building during his leave

## THANK YOU FOR SERVING OUR COUNTRY

## CIRCUIT NEWS

### Sixth Judicial Circuit Court Administrator Retires, New One Selected

Trial Court Administrator Bill Lockhart, of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, is retiring on December 31st and will be sorely missed. The Court Administration office was established in the Sixth Judicial Circuit in 1983. At that time Mr. J. William Lockhart was appointed as the first administrator. Thank you, Bill, for your faithful service to the Sixth Judicial Circuit. Best of luck in your new endeavors!



The Sixth Circuit knew there would be big shoes to fill when Bill Lockhart turned in his retirement papers, but the selection committee did not have to look far. Chief Deputy Courts Administrator Gay Lynne Inskeep has been selected as the new Trial Court Administrator.

As administrator, Ms. Inskeep will head a nonjudicial staff of 160 persons and oversee courthouse facilities at seven locations in Pasco and Pinellas counties. Chief Judge Dave Demers said more than 50 persons applied for the position and a selection committee interviewed 13 candidates, before recommending Ms. Inskeep. Congratulations, Gay!

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### In Memory of our Friends Who Served the Courts

**Judge W. Fred Turner** died on November 24th at age 81 after making numerous accomplishments over the course of his lifetime. As an attorney, he successfully defended Clarence Earl Gideon in a retrial mandated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1963, which guaranteed criminal defendants the right to an attorney. That case, Gideon v. Wainwright, resulted in the creation of a public defender system nationwide. Turner celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Gideon decision this past summer. He will be remembered by those who knew him as a man with a huge heart and the love of life.

**Judge Charles E. Miner, Jr.** passed away at age 72 on December 1st. He retired at the end of last year after serving as a member of the judiciary for more than twenty-six years. He first served on the trial court in the Second Judicial Circuit. Judge Miner sat for his last fourteen years on the First District Court of Appeal. One of his greatest passions was juvenile crime intervention and prevention.

**U.S. District Judge Ralph Nimmons** served on state and federal courts in Florida for the past twenty-six years. Nimmons' career included serving on the bench in the Fourth Circuit, then the First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee, and in 1991 he was appointed to the federal bench by former President Bush. He served as an administrative judge for the U.S. District Court in Jacksonville. He died of liver cancer at age 65 on November 24th.

## **JANUARY 2004**

- 1 New Years Day Holiday - Court Closed
- 4 - 9 Florida Judicial College, Phase 1, Tallahassee
- 8 - 9 Supreme Court Committee on ADR Rules and Policy meeting, Orlando
- 12 - 15 Florida Conference of County Court Judges' Education Program, Amelia Island
- 14 - 17 The Florida Bar Midyear Meeting, Miami
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Court Closed
- 23 - 25 Court Interpreter Orientation and Written Exam, Panama City
- 29 Pro Bono Awards, Supreme Court Building, Tallahassee

## **FEBRUARY 2004**

- 1 - 3 National Association for Court Management Midyear Conference, Savannah, Georgia
- 4 - 10 American Bar Association Midyear Meeting, San Antonio, Texas

## **Courtside Events**

**Harry Lee Anstead**, Chief Justice  
**Lisa Goodner**, State Courts Administrator  
**Jennifer Hirst**, Art Director & Editor

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