

**STATE OF FLORIDA
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**
Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns & Volusia Counties
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NEWS RELEASE

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Three New Circuit Judges Join the Bench

DAYTONA BEACH - The 7th Judicial Circuit welcomes three circuit judges to the bench.

Incoming Judges Christopher A. France, Stasia Warren and A. Kathleen McNeilly will preside over judicial divisions at the Volusia County Courthouse Annex at City Island in Daytona Beach.

Meanwhile, five other circuit judges will change their judicial divisions.

Judge France officially started today, Dec. 30, and has been assigned to hear civil cases. Judge-elect Warren will begin her six-year term on Jan. 3 and will hear juvenile cases. Judge-elect McNeilly also begins her six-year term on Jan. 3 and will hear juvenile cases as well. (Full biographies follow.)

All three judges will have an investiture, a public ceremony during which a judge is formally sworn into office. Judge-elect Warren will have her investiture at 4 p.m. on Jan. 6 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, 352 S. Nova Rd., Daytona Beach. Judge France will have his investiture on Jan. 20 at the Shores Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach Shores and Judge-elect McNeilly will have her investiture at the Volusia County Historic Courthouse, DeLand on Feb. 10.

Five other judges will have new judicial divisions, effective Jan. 3.

Circuit Judge Matthew M. Foxman will transfer from Flagler County and will preside over criminal cases and Drug Court at the S. James Foxman Justice Center in Daytona Beach, taking over Division 42 from retiring Judge Frank Marriott.

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Circuit Judge Dennis Craig will be moving back to Flagler County, taking the criminal and Drug Court divisions at the Kim C. Hammond Justice Center in Bunnell.

Circuit Judge Kathryn D. Weston will take over the criminal division at the Justice Center in Daytona Beach in which retiring Judge Joseph Will had presided.

Circuit Judges Howard M. Maltz and J. Michael Traynor will switch divisions at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center in St. Augustine. Judge Maltz will take over the criminal division and Judge Traynor will begin presiding over the civil division.

Following are biographies for our three incoming circuit judges:

Judge France was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Judge Will's retirement. Prior to becoming judge, Judge France served as an Assistant State Attorney in the Seventh Judicial Circuit for 18 years, taking on leadership roles in environmental crimes, sex crimes, drug enforcement and the homicide investigative unit and serving as division chief in the St. Johns County office. He also worked as a staff attorney at the Putnam County Courthouse for the Seventh Judicial Circuit and was appointed chair of the Florida Bar Grievance Committee. He received his law degree from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1995.

Judge-elect Warren previously served as a Volusia County Court Judge for 21 years, handling both civil and criminal cases and presiding over Domestic Violence Court. She also served as a prosecutor for the Office of the State Attorney in the Seventh Judicial Circuit for six years. She received her law degree from the Michigan State University College of Law and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1980.

Judge-elect McNeilly worked in private practice for 29 years before becoming a judge, with experience in civil insurance defense litigation, criminal, juvenile dependency and delinquency. She also served as a law clerk for the federal judiciary upon graduation from law school. She received her law degree from Stetson University College of Law and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988.

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