

DOCKET CALL

the official newsletter of the

Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Of Florida



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Judge Piggotte ends term as chief judge

Judge Julianne Piggotte's two-year term as Chief Judge ended June 30.

During her term, the Seventh Judicial Circuit "weathered" three hurricanes, as well as the Article V – Revision 7 storm. The Circuit also saw many changes in its scope of services and funding structure. Through Judge Piggotte's leadership, the Circuit's accomplishments included:

- successful implementation of Article V - Revision 7, giving the state greater responsibility for funding trial court operations beginning July 1, 2004
- greater use of technology to aid court operations, including digital recording of court proceedings and videoconferencing to federal bankruptcy court proceedings in Jacksonville
- formalization of the depend-

ency drug treatment division in Volusia County and planning for an adult drug treatment division in Flagler County

- formation of an in-house foreign language interpreter division
- expansion of the civil traffic infraction hearing officer program to include Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns counties
- establishment of a non-binding arbitration program
- creation of a custody investigation program
- development of a Family/Dependency case management unit
- appointment of a task force to examine the feasibility of a Unified Family Court in DeLand.

"We are grateful for the strong

leadership Judge Piggotte provided during her term as chief judge. Her extensive experience and involvement in judicial activities helped the circuit move forward on a number of initiatives," said new Chief Judge William A. Parsons. "We plan to build on Judge Piggotte's accomplishments and continue delivering justice in a fair and efficient manner."

Thank you, Judge Piggotte, for your dedication and service to the Court and the citizens of the Seventh Judicial Circuit.

In Memoriam

Honorable Robert W. Rawlins Jr.
1928-2005

The Seventh Judicial Circuit lost a friend and dedicated jurist when Judge Robert W. Rawlins Jr. passed away April 16. Judge Rawlins will be sorely missed but fondly remembered.

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Updated county, circuit division assignments currently in effect

The following county judge assignments went into effect April 25:

Division 60	Judge Sharon B. Atack
Division 62	Judge Peter T. Miller
Division 63	Judge Elizabeth A. Morris
Division 65	Judge Patti Christensen
Division 66	Judge Charles J. Tinlin
Division 70	Judge Peter F. Marshall
Division 71	Judge Shirley A. Green
Division 72	Judge John R. Smith
Division 78	Judge Mary Jane Henderson
Division 80	Judge David B. Beck
Division 82	Judge H. Pope Hamrick, Jr.
Division 83	Judge Belle B. Schumann
Division 84	Judge Stasia Warren
Division 85	Judge Steven deLaroche

The following circuit judge assignments went into effect July 5:

Division 01	Judge Edwin P.B. Sanders
Division 02	Judge Robert K. Rouse, Jr.
Division 04	Judge John V. Doyle
Division 05	Judge Hubert L. Grimes
Division 06 (Volusia County Juv. Delinquency Drug Court)	Judge James R. Clayton
Division 07	Judge S. James Foxman
Division 10	Judge C. McFerrin Smith, III
Division 25 (Putnam County Adult Drug Court)	Judge A.W. Nichols, III
Division 26 (St. Johns County Adult Drug Treatment Div.)	Judge Wendy W. Berger
Division 27 (Volusia County Juv. Dependency Drug Treatment Div.)	Judge James R. Clayton
Division 30	Judge Shawn L. Briesse
Division 31	Judge John W. Watson, III
Division 32	Judge J. David Walsh
Division 35	Judge Richard S. Graham
Division 36	Judge Patrick G. Kennedy
Division 37	Judge James R. Clayton
Division 38	Judge Frank Marriott
Division 40	Judge Joseph G. Will
Division 41	Judge R. Michael Hutcheson
Division 42	Judge Julianne Piggotte
Division 43	Judge William A. Parsons
Division 45 (Volusia County Adult Drug Court)	Judge Joseph G. Will
Division 50	Judge Kim C. Hammond
Division 52	Judge Terrill J. LaRue
Division 53	Judge A.W. Nichols, III
Division 54	Judge Edward E. Hedstrom
Division 55	Judge Wendy W. Berger
Division 56	Judge J. Michael Traynor
Division 57	Judge John M. Alexander



Nancy Johnson named Employee of the Quarter

Court Administration is pleased to name Nancy Johnson as the Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2005.

Nancy works as an administrative assistant in the Court Administrator's Office in St. Johns County. The Employee of the Quarter program is designed to recognize court employees who demonstrate exceptional performance and/or have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Without being asked, Nancy volunteered to help cover the support functions of two judicial offices when the judicial assistants were ab-

sent for extended periods of time. This work was performed in addition to her regular duties in the Court Administrator's Office.

Thanks for going above and beyond, Nancy. You provide effective assistance with an exceptional attitude.

Only nominations that describe how your nominee has demonstrated exceptional performance and/or how they have gone above and beyond the call of duty will be considered for this award.

Third quarter 2005 nominations must be received by September 12. Please send them to the attention of Anne Landolfa, Personnel, Court-house Annex, 125 E. Orange Ave., Suite 300, Daytona



Nancy Johnson

Beach. You may also e-mail your nominations to alan-dolfa@circuit7.org. Eligible employees include staff court reporters, judicial staff attorneys and other Court Administration staff. Judges, judicial assistants and managers are not eligible.

Former court employee honored posthumously



Anne Epstein, who worked for the Family Court Services division of Court Administration for more than eight years, was honored in April with the announcement of The Anne Epstein Distinguished Service Award.

The Committee for Positive Parenting presented this newly created annual award to Epstein, posthumously, during the annual

Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect luncheon. Epstein, a former juvenile alternative sanctions coordinator, died in September 2004.

Members of Epstein's family and close friends joined about 200 professionals at the luncheon to celebrate her life and achievements. We, too, join the community in honoring Anne Epstein.



Personnel Notes

New Hires

Bernard Tebo
Law Clerk
Putnam County
4/11/05

Amy Cheney
Court Program Specialist
Case Mgt. – Probate
Volusia County
4/18/05

Tammy Mancini
Court Program Specialist
Case Mgt. – Family Court Svcs.
Volusia County
4/21/05

Julio Semino
Court Interpreter
Interpreter Services
4/22/05

Judge Belle Schumann
County Judge
Volusia County
4/25/05

Katie Barnard
Court Program Specialist
Case Mgt. – Family Court Svcs.
Putnam County
4/25/05

Molly Justice
Court Communications Officer
Court Communications
6/20/05

Katie Asbill
Administrative Assistant
Family Court Services
4/25/05

Norma Esposito
Court Program Specialist
Case Mgt. – Family Court Svcs.
Volusia County
5/9/05

Lynea Ferguson
Staff Assistant
Pretrial Services
Volusia County
5/23/05

Judge Wendy Berger
Circuit Judge
St. Johns County
6/6/05

Bill Dollar
Mediator
Family Court Services
6/8/05

Shirley Olson
Criminal Court Services
Manager
Criminal Court Services
6/14/05

Separations

Randy Stone
Staff Assistant
Pretrial Services
Volusia County
4/28/05

Norman Mattice
Office Assistant
U/A Lab
Volusia County
5/13/05

Joy MacMahon
Office Assistant
Adult Drug Court
Volusia County
5/31/05

B. J. Mitchell
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Services
5/31/05

Dani Kuhns
Administrative Assistant
Family Court Services
6/30/05



Just Married

- * Michelle Barrickman, digital court reporter, to Joshua Stover, April 9.
- * Diane Rickels, judicial assistant to Judge J.R. Smith, to Kenny Wiles, June 4.

Congratulations to the newlyweds!



Congratulations

Wendy W. Berger was appointed by Governor Bush to fill the Circuit Court judgeship vacancy created by Judge Robert Mathis' retirement. Judge Berger took office June 6.

Judge Shirley Green received the Volusia/Flagler Association of Women Lawyers' *Woman of the Year* award at its annual banquet May 12.

Michael Jewell, Drug Court Coordinator, received an award from Glacier Consulting, Inc. in celebration of its fifth anniversary. The award was given to six individuals throughout the country for their commitment to the development and implementation of effective local programs aimed at improving their communities.

Bob Sterner, Family Court Services Manager, was appointed to serve on the Workload and Performance Measurement Subcommittee of the Supreme Court's Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability.

Erica Booth, Pretrial Services, received her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Florida May 5.

Kim Barrs, Anne Landolfa, Mark Weinberg and Tracy Woodman served as HOSTS mentors at Bonner Elementary School in Daytona Beach during the 2004-05 school year.

Items of Interest

Judge Belle B. Schumann's investiture ceremony took place June 10 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach.

Judge Wendy W. Berger's investiture ceremony will be July 22 in the Flagler College Auditorium in St. Augustine.

The 2005 Florida Legislature created/funded 55 new judgeships (35 Circuit – 20 County). The Seventh Judicial Circuit was allocated two Circuit judgeships and one County Court judgeship for Volusia County.

Chief Justice Pariente and Governor Bush issued a joint proclamation recognizing May 2005 as *National Drug Court Month* in Florida. Similar proclamations were issued by Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties. In recognition of National Drug Court Month, a statewide drug court graduation was held in Panama City May 12.

Chief Justice Pariente issued a proclamation declaring May 2005 as *Juror Appreciation Month* in Florida. This recognition coincided with Law Day 2005 - "The American Jury: We the People in Action."

Digital Court reporters Dorie Jackson, Michelle Stover, Debra Mann and Carlynn Webb attended the American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers conference in Arlington, Va., in June.

The 2005 hurricane season started June 1 and runs through November 30. Hurricane experts predict 15 named storms and eight hurricanes, four of which are predicted to be category 3 or higher. Court personnel are encouraged to prepare/update/review Family Disaster plans and provide updated emergency contact information to the Human Resources Department.

Short-sleeved polo shirts with the Circuit logo are available for purchase. Order forms may be obtained from the Court Administrator's Office.



Calendar of Events

July

- 20-22 Florida Conference of County Court Judges (Key Largo)
- 22 Judge Berger's Investiture (Flagler College) (St. Augustine)

August

- 5 Circuit Judges Meeting (Palatka)
- 19 County Judges Meeting (Volusia County) (Daytona Beach)
- 24-28 Judicial Assistants Association Conference (Key West)
- 25-27 Dispute Resolution Conference (Orlando)

September

- 2 Circuit Judges Meeting (Volusia County) (DeLand)
- 5 Labor Day Holiday
- 16 County Judges Meeting (Volusia County) (Daytona Beach)

Judge Parsons elected chief judge

Circuit Judge William A. Parsons will lead the Seventh Judicial Circuit as chief judge beginning July 1. Elected by the 38 circuit and county judges in Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties, Parsons will have administrative supervision over all courts in the circuit during his two-year term. He will also continue his duties on the circuit bench, where he currently hears felony criminal cases in Daytona Beach.



Parsons earned his juris doctor degree from the Florida State University College of Law. After spending 25 years in private practice as a civil trial attorney, Parsons was appointed to the

Facility Improvements



Human Resources was relocated to Room 300 in the Volusia County Courthouse Annex on City Island. Family Court Services moved to Room 201.

New wall covering was installed in Courtroom #217 in the Putnam County Courthouse.

Suite 119 in the Volusia County Justice Center received new carpet and was repainted.

Many thanks to Facilities Services staff in Putnam and Volusia counties for assisting with these improvements.



Speaking Engagements of the Seventh Circuit
Racial & Ethnic Fairness Workgroup
Community Outreach Subcommittee

As part of the Seventh Judicial Circuit's diversity efforts, the Community Outreach Subcommittee has been keeping track of the speaking engagements by Judicial and Court Administration personnel. The listings below are an example of how many employees work in the community to create a heightened awareness of the court system through informative talks and tours.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Community Outreach Speakers Bureau, have information regarding a past speaking engagement, or know of a community group that would be interested in hearing about the Court, please contact **Anne Landolfa** at (386) 248-8105 or **alandolfa@circuit7.org**.

Schools

4/22/05 – A class from Orange City Elementary School visited the Volusia County Courthouse to observe Judge Green in court.

4/28/05 – A class from Silver Sands Middle School visited the Courthouse Annex in Daytona Beach to observe Judge Clayton and Judge deLaroche in court.

5/3/05 – Beth King visited a fourth-grade class of 27 students at Starke Elementary School in DeLand as part of the Volusia County Bar Association's annual Law Week program. The theme of Law Week this year was "We the People in Action- Celebrating the American Jury System."

5/12/05 - Eighteen fourth and fifth graders visited the Volusia County Courthouse. Following a tour of the building, the group met with Judge Grimes for a Q & A session.

Community Associations/Professional Engagements

4/9/05 – Judge Green spoke about employment law at a church in Deltona.

5/5/05 – Judge Green spoke at a Community Relations Council program in Daytona Beach entitled "Building Bridges: A Student and Police Project."

5/5/05 – Judge Green led a panel discussion for a luncheon entitled "Honoring Women in Leadership in Volusia County" hosted by the Women's Center at DBCC.

5/16/05 – Mark Weinberg appeared as a guest on the Rice & Rose Legal Forum (WNDB/WNDA) to talk about the State Courts system and the Court Administrator's Office.

5/24/05 – A Leadership group from the Port Orange/South Daytona Chamber of Commerce visited the Volusia County Courthouse.

5/26/05 – Judge Green spoke at the Annual Family Self Sufficiency Recognition Banquet hosted by Volusia County Human Services.

6/3/05 – Judge Will appeared as a guest on Big Talk (WELE) to discuss the criminal justice system.

6/4/05 – Judge Green spoke at the Electralyte Charity Club's annual Sisters Are Forever Luncheon.

6/10/05 - Judge Kennedy and Jean Dwyer, General Magistrate, provided a CLE Seminar on Family Law topics hosted by the Volusia County Bar Association.

6/30/05 - Judge Grimes was the featured speaker at the membership meeting of the Volusia County Bar Association. Judge Grimes' remarks dealt with the Unified Family Court pilot project in West Volusia County.



The article below is being offered to continue the Seventh Judicial Circuit's commitment to increased diversity awareness among court staff. This is an excerpt from an article entitled **UNEQUAL TREATMENT IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM Fact or Fiction?** by Herbert E. Phipps, appearing in the Spring 2005 edition of *The Court Manager*, a publication of the National Association for Court Management.

The search for unequal treatment in the justice system requires an investigation of much more than what goes on in the courtroom. It requires a study of the policies, practices and attitudes of everyone who touches the lives of citizens as they move through the system on their way to court, from social services agencies to law enforcement agencies.

State and National Bias Studies Began in the 1980s

Starting with New Jersey, between 1982 and 2002, 45 states had issued reports on gender bias in the judicial system. Starting with New Jersey again, between 1984 and 1999, about 30 states had explored or begun to explore racial and ethnic bias in the courts.

The first type of surveys clearly showed that, throughout the states, minorities and women were under-represented in the judiciary, the practice of law and law schools. How could we expect women and racial and ethnic minorities to respect the court and believe that they would be understood and treated fairly when, looking at the face of the

court, no one looked like them or could talk their language?

The second category of surveys established that women and racial and ethnic minorities had a pervasive perception of bias against them in the judicial system.

Incremental Improvements

Since then some progress has occurred. Legal decisions have remedied jury discrimination and condemned unfair courtroom practices. Many courts have adopted rules to prohibit unfair treatment and have provided educational programs for court personnel and others aimed at teaching awareness and elimination of biased behaviors.

Reports of overt bias in the courtroom are no longer the norm from women and minority lawyers, especially in urban areas, which have a significant percentage of women and minorities in the bar and on the bench.

Although bias is often more subtle than in the past, we must constantly guard against the resurgence of earlier problems and against bias in other, not-yet-identified, forms.

Perception vs. Reality: Why Perception Matters

Why should we be concerned that studies show there are still perceptions of bias? Should we be concerned only if the studies show that bias is an actual fact? Aren't we doing our jobs as long as we believe we are rendering equal justice? No. As stated by Justice Deborah T. Portiz of New Jersey: "A court system derives its authority from the confidence of the people in the administra-

tion of justice, and justice must be administered equally, to everyone... The rule of law... invests the courts with the imprimatur of legitimacy. But the courts' real power comes from the willingness of the people to accept their judgments, to believe that they act objectively and without regard to the status of the parties who come before them."

The Court's Role as Impartial Arbitrator

Two of the core functions of courts in our nation are to equitably resolve disputes and to protect individual rights from the tyranny of the majority. Will the people have faith in the court to determine such disputes impartially and to enforce the laws that protect individual rights if they do not have confidence in the inherent fairness of the court system? In order to build and maintain such confidence, our judicial system needs to take a thoughtful look at itself and to make sure that the equal treatment is fact in its own halls.

What We Must Do

Our justice system is public, but much of what we do is not in the public view. We must have the courage to insist that people are treated fairly even when no one is watching.

Often we see people at their worst or when they are struggling with difficult situations. Often we see the worst people among us. At times we may be tempted to react to them with contempt and disdain or to overlook unfair

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treatment by others. It is not always easy to treat every participant equally or fairly. But it must be done.

...these words [are] from the closing argument by the fictional Atticus Finch in Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird, which was reproduced in the introduction to the Nebraska Minority and Justice Task Force Report 2003:

Thomas Jefferson once said that

all men are created equal... We know all [people] are not created equal in the sense some people would have us believe – some people are smarter than others, some people have more opportunity because they are born with it, some [people] have more money than others... some people are born with gifts beyond the scope of most...

But there is one way in this country in which all [people] are created equal – there is one human

institution that makes a pauper the equal of a Rockefeller, the stupid [person] the equal of an Einstein and the ignorant [person] the equal of any college president. That institution is the court...

Let us fulfill our charge to make and keep this statement true. Let us fulfill our charge by working every day to make unequal treatment in the justice system FICTION, NOT FACT!

Work underway for new integrated CJIS in Volusia County

Work on a new Volusia County integrated Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) continues to move forward as officials begin to discuss the detailed design phase of the project.

Kick off of the detailed design phase came after the Volusia County Council approved a \$3.75 million contract with Unisys Corporation. The contract is the first of three anticipated contracts to design, develop and implement an integrated CJIS.

“I’m just truly delighted we’re to this point. We couldn’t have gotten this far without commitment and cooperation from all of the agencies involved,” said Circuit Judge Robert K. Rouse Jr., chair of the CJIS Council. “The new system will help us deliver public safety and protection in a more efficient and effective manner and will also make our lives better.”

The new system will be designed to be flexible, integrated and user-friendly. Some of the system benefits will include: allowing agencies to implement individual systems that satisfy their business

requirements; improving decision making by providing timely access to shared data among multiple agencies; streamlining processes by prompting action with alerts and automatic notifications; reducing the amount of paper circulated among agencies through electronic exchange of data; and improving ad-hoc query capability with user-friendly reporting tools.

About 2,000 functional requirements have been identified by the Court, Court Administration, Clerk of Court, County Department of Corrections, Sheriff, State Attorney, Public Defender and Florida Department of Corrections – probation and parole.

CJIS currently manages and/or processes 985,000 criminal cases, 138,000 transactions a day, \$1,275,000 in cash bonds and 386,000 warrants. It also keeps track of a jail population of 1,670.

The total cost for the new system is estimated between \$16 and \$19 million and full implementation is expected within three years. The detailed design phase should be complete by next spring.





SECURITY NOTES



Security screening stations are located in the Flagler County Courthouse, the Putnam County Courthouse, the St. Johns County Judicial Center, the Volusia County Courthouse, the Volusia County Justice Center, the Volusia County Courthouse Annex (City Island), the Volusia County Courthouse Annex (New Smyrna Beach), and the courtroom at the Volusia County Branch Jail. During the 2nd quarter of 2005(April — June), the following weapons were detected :

Location	Firearms	Knives	Scissors	Other	Total
Flagler County Courthouse	0	315	126	744	1,185
Putnam County Courthouse	0	330	45	801	1,176
St. Johns County Judicial Center	0	344	44	73	461
Volusia County Courthouse	0	812	127	338	1,277
Volusia County Justice Center	0	167	30	74	271
Volusia County Annex (City Island)	0	575	71	264	910
Volusia County Annex (New Smyrna)	0	265	41	66	372
TOTALS	0	2,808	484	2,360	5,652



Docket Call

The Official Newsletter of the Seventh Judicial Circuit

William A. Parsons
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