

**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns & Volusia Counties  
Volusia County Courthouse  
101 N. Alabama Ave.  
DeLand, Florida 32724

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**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Circuit Judge Dawn D. Nichols sworn in at the Seventh Judicial Circuit**

Circuit Judge Dawn D. Nichols, the newest jurist in the Seventh Judicial Circuit, was sworn into office at the Volusia County Courthouse in DeLand on Monday and has started work this week.

Judge Nichols presides over family law cases at the DeLand courthouse. She was appointed by Gov. Rick Scott to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Hubert L. Grimes.

“I am honored to have been appointed as circuit judge,” she said. “Though I know the work will be challenging, I look forward to this opportunity to serve the citizens of the Seventh Judicial Circuit.”

A native of Orlando, Judge Nichols has been an attorney since 1991. She graduated from Edgewater High School in Orlando and earned both a bachelor’s degree and a juris doctor from the University of Florida. She began her law career with the Public Defender’s Office in the 7th Judicial Circuit. She then went into private practice, working for two years with Rice & Rose, P.A. and then established her own private practice in 1996. She is board certified in Marital and Family Law.

A formal investiture for Judge Nichols will be held 3 p.m. on March 28 at the Museum of Arts & Sciences, Daytona Beach.

Photo caption: Chief Judge Terence Perkins (left) administered the oath of office to Circuit Judge Dawn D. Nichols on Feb. 24, 2014 at the Volusia County Courthouse in DeLand. Circuit Judge James R. Clayton held the Bible during the oath. Photo by Ludmilla Lelis / Seventh Judicial Circuit