

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

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Circuit Judge Michael S. Orfinger to be formally sworn

Circuit Judge Michael S. Orfinger, one of seven judges who has just joined the Seventh Judicial Circuit, will have his investiture on Friday, Jan. 16. He is the third member of his family to serve on the bench of this circuit.

His formal swearing-in ceremony will take place at 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 16 at the Museum of Arts & Sciences, 352 S. Nova Rd., Daytona Beach.

This is a judicial proceeding and the circuit judges will be sitting *en banc*.

Last year, he qualified as a candidate for a circuit judge election and automatically won the seat when he became the sole candidate in that race. His six-year term of office officially began Jan. 6.

Judge Orfinger presides over the family law and civil divisions in Flagler County at the Kim C. Hammond Justice Center in Bunnell. Circuit Judge Dennis Craig, who had been presiding over those divisions, is now handling civil cases at the Volusia County Courthouse Annex at City Island in Daytona Beach.

A Volusia County native, Judge Orfinger is the son and the brother of judges. His father, the late Judge Melvin Orfinger, was a Seventh Circuit judge and one of the original judges on the Fifth District Court of Appeal in Daytona Beach. Judge Richard Orfinger, his older brother, is a former Seventh Circuit judge and currently serves on the appellate court.

"I'm humbled and honored by the opportunity to serve as one of our circuit judges," said Judge Michael Orfinger. "It's particularly special for me to work in Flagler County, where my father began his judicial career, and in the courthouse where his portrait now hangs. I can't begin to express how much I'm looking forward to beginning this next phase of my professional life."

Judge Orfinger received a bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., and earned his juris doctor at the University of Florida College of Law with high honors. An attorney since 1989, he first worked in private practice, handling commercial and real estate litigation. In 2004, he joined Upchurch Watson White & Max Mediation Group. For the last eleven years, his work has been devoted to mediation, arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution.

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