

STATE OF FLORIDA
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
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NEWS RELEASE

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Circuit Judge Robert K. Rouse Jr. honored with Florida Bar professionalism award

DeLand – Circuit Judge Robert K. Rouse Jr. received The Florida Bar’s William M. Hoeveler Judicial Award during the organization’s annual conference June 27 in Boca Raton.

The award, named for Senior U.S. District Judge William M. Hoeveler of the Southern District of Florida, recognizes judges who are dedicated to the ideals of justice and demonstrate diligence in inspiring others to the mission of professionalism. Senior U.S. District Judge Susan Black of the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals was also honored with the 2013 award. Past recipients include Circuit Judge Belvin Perry Jr. and Florida Supreme Court justices Barbara Pariente and Fred Lewis.

“It was clear to the awards subcommittee that Judge Rouse is universally esteemed for his embodiment of professionalism and civility,” said David Hallman, chair of the awards subcommittee and chair-elect of the full standing Committee on Professionalism of The Florida Bar. “Lawyers and judges commented positively on his mentoring, preparation, demeanor and the example that he sets for everyone.”

Rouse, a circuit judge since 1995, currently presides over civil cases at the Volusia County Courthouse in DeLand. During his time on the bench, he’s heard criminal, family and civil cases in Daytona Beach and Bunnell and served two terms as chief judge. Rouse also spent many years hearing Baker Act mental health and Marchman Act substance abuse proceedings.

In 2004, he authored the “Principles of Professionalism for Florida’s Judges.” These nine principles were later adopted by judicial conferences and the Supreme Court of Florida to encourage judges to be civil and respectful to all parties who appear before them. Locally, Rouse served as president of the Dunn-Blount Inn of the American Inns of Court. American Inns of Court foster interaction between judges and attorneys of all levels to improve the skills, professionalism and ethics of the bench and bar.

“Because of his strong command of the law and procedure, many look to Judge Rouse for guidance and counsel,” wrote Judge William A. Parsons. “Fellow judges know he will respect and listen to differing points of view. He also takes the time to thoroughly explain rulings and procedure to both attorneys and litigants.”

A graduate of Florida State University and the University of Florida College of Law, he spent 20 years as a civil trial attorney in Daytona Beach before becoming a judge. Rouse and his wife, Donna, live in Ormond Beach.

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