

STATE OF FLORIDA
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NEWS RELEASE

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Circuit Judge Robert K. Rouse Jr. named Central Florida Jurist of the Year

Circuit Judge Robert K. Rouse Jr. has been named the Central Florida Jurist of the Year by the Central Florida Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Florida Supreme Court Justice Charles T. Wells presented Rouse with the award at the chapter's quarterly meeting at the University Club in Orlando late last month.

The chapter, which includes about 70 Central Florida civil attorneys, selected Rouse mainly for his work on the "Principles of Professionalism for Florida's Judges," according to chapter president Jerry Sutcliffe. Authored by Rouse, the nine principles were adopted by the state's judges last year to encourage judges to be civil and respectful to all parties who appear before them.

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 hears Baker Act mental health and Marchman Act substance abuse proceedings.

A graduate of the University of Florida College of Law, Rouse spent 20 years as a civil trial attorney in Daytona Beach before becoming a judge.

Next month, Rouse will begin a two-year term as president of the local 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.

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Cutline

From left- Circuit Judge Robert K. Rouse Jr. is congratulated by Jerry Sutcliffe, president of the Central Florida Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and Florida Supreme Court Justice Charles T. Wells. *Photo courtesy of the Central Florida Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates*