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NEWS RELEASE

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Circuit Judge Edwin P.B. Sanders to retire after 23 years on the bench

DeLand – Circuit Judge Edwin P.B. Sanders will end his 23-year judicial career March 31. Sanders, 65, currently hears civil cases at the Volusia County Courthouse in DeLand.

“I have known Judge Sanders for almost 30 years. He was a first-rate trial lawyer and has been a first-rate Circuit Judge,” said Chief Judge William A. Parsons. “He is firm when necessary but also caring and considerate. He will be missed on the bench.”

As a criminal judge, Sanders handled the widely-publicized Deidre Hunt murder trial in St. Augustine. Hunt is currently serving life in prison for her role in two 1989 Daytona Beach murders.

During his time as the county’s administrative judge in the late ‘80s, Sanders implemented new procedures for case filing and assignments, expanded the county’s pretrial release program and helped set up First Step, a non-profit corporation that assists probationers in the successful completion of their program.

He feels his most significant contribution to the county during his time on the bench was the founding of the Volusia County adult and juvenile drug court programs.

“You’re not going to stop criminal activity unless you reduce drug and alcohol abuse,” he said.

Sanders earned both his undergraduate and juris doctor degrees from Stetson University. Before becoming a judge, he was a civil attorney for 15 years with Landis, Graham, French, Husfeld, Sherman & Ford P.A.

A longtime DeLand resident, Sanders is a member of the DeLand Rotary Club and has served on the Duvall Home and West Volusia YMCA boards of directors for more than 35 years. In addition to serving as a senior judge, Sanders plans to travel and spend time with his family in retirement.

To fill Sanders' vacancy, Gov. Jeb Bush will appoint one of the six candidates forwarded to him by the Seventh Circuit's Judicial Nominating Commission in February.

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