



The Docket Call

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF FLORIDA

Chief Judge reflections from William A. Parsons

As my second term as chief judge has come to a close, I'd like to thank everyone on the Seventh Judicial Circuit team for your continued hard work and dedication.

We've all experienced a tremendous amount of change these past two years - not only on the bench but also in the way we do business. In the years to come, we will continue to undergo change. But at some point, there will be light at the end of the tunnel and it will be exciting to see what's on the other side.

You may have noticed that the new faces on the bench are getting younger. Eight new judges have joined us since the summer of 2011. While they've added a wealth of knowledge and experience to the circuit, we've also lost decades of judicial experience through retirements and resignations. Fortunately, several of our retired judges continue to work with us as senior judges assisting with foreclosures and other assignments as needed. One thing that has remained a constant these past few years has been our court administrator, Mark Weinberg. Mark recently celebrated his 20th anniversary with the circuit, and we wouldn't be where we are at today without his vision and leadership. It wasn't until I served as chief judge that I fully understood and appreciated the scope of Mark's responsibilities. He not only faithfully serves us here in the Seventh Circuit, but he's also involved in many statewide court committees including the Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC). We are truly grateful to have him here in the Seventh Circuit.

Mark spent quite a bit of time this spring in Tallahassee on behalf of the TCBC. Overall, the branch fared well during the legis-

lative session. Funding for initiatives like the Volusia County post-adjudicatory drug court program was continued. The branch also received funds for its ongoing efforts to reduce the residential foreclosure backlog statewide. Additionally, the Legislature and governor approved the restoration of a previous judicial salary reduction and across-the-board raises for state employees.

While the economy is showing signs of improvement in some areas, the foreclosure backlog in Florida is an issue that will continue to exist for several years. We're fortunate for the continued funding that lets us employ case managers and senior judges who keep these cases moving.

To help us handle the mountain of foreclosure cases and others, the branch has been transitioning to improved technology and case management systems that will assist us in doing our jobs quicker and better. We're now using e-filing in our family and civil divisions. We will be adding other divisions and enhanced judicial viewer capabilities in the coming months. At the same time, Volusia County launched its new criminal case management system - a project that has been more than a decade in the making under the leadership of Circuit Judge Robert K. Rouse, Jr.

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to have served a second term as your chief judge. It's been a busy and exciting two years. I am confident that all of these changes will make us a stronger and more progressive organization and look forward to what the future holds under the leadership of Circuit Judge Terence R. Perkins.

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The Putnam County Bar Association unveiled a portrait of retired Putnam County Court Judge Peter T. Miller May 10 in recognition of his 28 years on the bench. Pictured with Judge Miller (from left) are his former judicial assistant, Patty Varnes, and wife, Linda. Photo courtesy of Teddy Nichols.



Judge Terence R. Perkins presents Judge William A. Parsons with a resolution from the circuit's judges in appreciation of his work as chief judge at the June judges' meeting in DeLand.



Judge David H. Foxman thanks Volusia County Administrative Judge Belle B. Schumann for her leadership on the bench.



Court Administrator Mark Weinberg recognizes Court Communications Officer Molly Justice for her service to the circuit.

Just Married

Cindy Moore, Judicial Assistant to Judge LaRue, was married to Warren Sutton July 4.



Personnel Update

New Hires

Ken Moriarty, Network Coordinator, Court Technology, Volusia County, 4/1/13

Robin Herring, Judicial Assistant - Judge Green, Volusia County, 5/3/13

Jessica Black, Office Assistant - Drug Court, Volusia County, 6/3/13

Separations / Retirements

Trish Cash, Judicial Assistant - Judge Green, Volusia County, 4/30/13

Patti Trembley, Judicial Assistant - Judge Will, Volusia County, 5/31/13

Molly Justice, Court Communications Officer, 6/7/13



Participants in the Volusia County Drug Court program turned out on Memorial Day to honor veterans while raising awareness for drug court. A short program, which featured remarks from circuit judges J. David Walsh and Joseph G. Will, preceded a one-mile walk in downtown Daytona Beach. Drug court programs throughout the circuit celebrated National Drug Court Month with graduations and proclamation presentations. The circuit's six programs are among more than 2,700 operational drug courts throughout the country.

Congratulations / Items of Interest / Facilities Improvements

Chief Justice Ricky Polston and the Florida Supreme Court issued a proclamation acknowledging the fine work of drug court practitioners in recognition of National Drug Court Month, May 2013. Governor Scott and the Cabinet issued a similar resolution. Proclamations/resolutions were also issued by Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties, as well as some municipalities in the circuit.

Volusia County Court Judge Belle B. Schumann has been assigned to sit as a temporary judge at the Fifth District Court of Appeal by Chief Justice Polston, marking the first time that a county court judge has been so assigned.

Circuit Judge John M. Alexander received the J. Edward "Red" Cox Award in April. The award is given annually to an individual who has made an impact in the St. Augustine community.

Circuit Judge Howard M. Maltz was recognized in Florida Trend's 2013 Legal Elite in the Government and Non-Profit category for his service in the Jacksonville General Counsel's office prior to his appointment to the bench.

Chief Judge Terence R. Perkins was named to the executive board of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges.

Circuit Judge Joseph G. Will appeared on Volusia County Government's weekly TV and radio shows in June to talk about Drug Court.

Pamela Palermo, Court Administration, has earned a bachelor's degree in social science from Florida State University.

Gina Rivers, Volusia County Teen Court, has earned a bachelor's degree in supervision and management from Daytona State College.

John A. Tomasino was selected to succeed Thomas D. Hall as the Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court. He will begin his new duties Nov. 1.

Corrective Solutions was selected as the provider of misdemeanor probation services in Flagler County.

For the quarter beginning July 1, the Chief Financial Officer has set the rate of interest payable on judgments or decrees at 4.75 percent per annum or a daily rate of .000130137. The interest rate for payments to health care providers remains at 1 percent per month or a daily rate of .0003333.

The circuit renewed several contracts for the period beginning July 1. Service providers include Drs. Roger Davis, Louis Legum and Elek Ludvigh (competency evaluations); Charles Cino and John Pascucci (civil traffic infraction hearing officers); Volusia Reporting Company (stenographic court reporting); and County Court Mediation Services (small claims/county civil mediations).

A wireless network was installed at the Kim C. Hammond Justice Center in Bunnell. Wireless access is now available in court locations throughout the circuit.

The 2013 hurricane season began June 1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) indicates conditions favor an "active" hurricane season in the Atlantic basin.

Shirts bearing the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court's logo are available for purchase. Order forms may be obtained from Human Resources.

A project to replace the windows throughout the Putnam County Courthouse is underway.

The Volusia County Clerk of Court received a grant from the State Justice Institute to contract with the National Center for State Courts for an "E-Courtroom and Design" project.



Pre-race pose with Circuit Judge R. Michael Hutcheson (center) with his daughter, Robin, and son-in-law, Justin Stewart.



Judge Hutcheson (right) takes on one of several obstacles during FL.ROC.



Post-race pose with Circuit Judge Carlos E. Mendoza and his daughter, Maddie.

Judges, court staff get down and dirty at local mud race

Some unique father/daughter bonding occurred at the FL.ROC off-road, obstacle race May 11 in Bunnell. Circuit Judge R. Michael Hutcheson joined his daughter, Robin, for the race. And Circuit Judge Carlos E. Mendoza did the same with his daughter, Maddie. The event was the first mud run for veteran runner Judge Hutcheson. For the Mendozas, it was their third.

Judge Hutcheson has been a runner for about 40 years, completing three local marathons in the '80s. Judge Mendoza has been running for about 20 years and completed the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC, in 1999. Both judges have competed in races of various distances over the years.

Also competing in the FL.ROC event was judicial assistant Brooke Palmer. Brooke has been running for about four years.

Judicial Profile: Chief Judge Terence R. Perkins

Part of a series of judicial profiles from around the Circuit

Q: *What made you want to become a lawyer and later a judge?*

A: My dad was a fire chief, and he thought being a lawyer was the most noble profession. I am confident I became a lawyer because of that. There weren't any lawyers in my family, and I had no lawyer "role model," so to speak. I was hired out of law school by two of the finest lawyers I know - Dave Monaco (retired circuit and appellate judge) and Lester Kaney. They taught me everything. I went on to practice with other great lawyers and spent about 30 years in private practice with the Daytona Beach firm of Monaco, Smith, Hood, Perkins, Orfinger and Stout. It was Dave Monaco and (Judge) Rick Orfinger who got me interested in the academic side of the law and the judiciary. I knew there would someday be an opportunity for me to give back to the community I was raised in by serving as a judge. In 2010, former Gov. Charlie Crist appointed me to the bench to fill a vacancy created when Judge Doyle retired.

Q: *You just started a two-year term as chief judge. What sort of changes do you anticipate in the circuit in the months to come?*

A: For the past few years, I've been involved on a statewide committee tasked with selecting judicial viewing systems for the courts. These systems take information from the clerks of court and display it in a way that's easy for judges to use. These viewers

will help judges make better, more efficient decisions. At the same time, the entire state is in the process of switching over to electronic filing. So far, we're using electronic filing in the family and civil divisions. In the next year or so, we should have almost all our divisions online with electronic filing and judicial viewers.

Q: *Do you have any advice on how court staff and judges can adjust to these technological advances?*

A: We recognize that this is probably the most fundamental and profound change in the courts system in at least my lifetime. We also recognize the anxiety these changes have created. However, we wouldn't be in favor of these changes if they were happening solely for the sake of change. We know that these systems will enhance the information available to judges and make the system better in the long run. We ask that everyone continue to be patient. We're confident the end result will be worth the wait.

Q: *Were you born and raised in the Daytona Beach area?*

A: No, I moved to the area when I was 9. I attended Seabreeze High School and the University of Florida for both my undergraduate and law degrees. My wife and I are high school sweethearts and met while we were working for the Beach Patrol. I was a lifeguard, and she was a dispatcher.

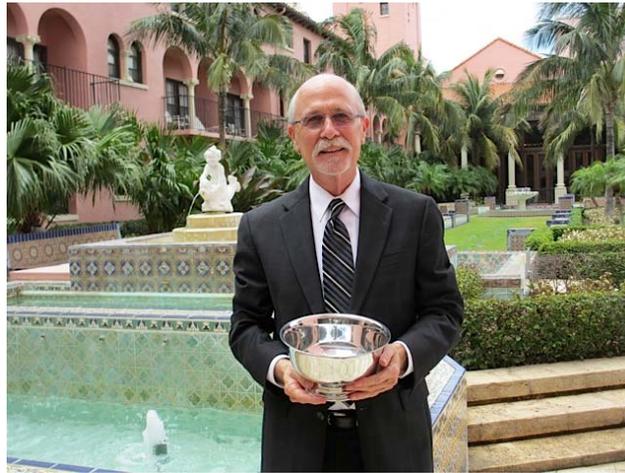


Chief Judge Terence R. Perkins

Q: *Do you have a family and/or any outside interests?*

A: My wife, Terri, and I have two children. Mandy was a student athlete at UF and graduated in the spring with a broadcasting degree. Our son, Brian, attends FSU and is pre law. We adopted Mandy when she was a baby, and I have a picture of (retired judge) Jim Foxman sitting in this office here at City Island with Mandy on his lap. He was the judge who finalized her adoption 22 years ago. As far as hobbies and interests are concerned, I have many. I like to fly and have two airplanes. I have two 1952 MG TDs. I build furniture. I build guitars and have been playing guitar since I was 9. I grow a vegetable garden every year. And if that wasn't enough, I enjoy traveling, hiking and backpacking.

Circuit Judge Robert K. Rouse Jr. honored by Florida Bar for professionalism



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

The award, named for Senior U.S. District Judge William M. Hoeverler 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."

Judge 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. Judge Rouse also spent many years hearing Baker Act and Marchman Act 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, Judge 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."

To commemorate Judge Rouse's Hoeverler Award, the Volusia County Council proclaimed July 11, 2013 as "Circuit Judge Robert K. Rouse Jr. Day" in Volusia County.

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.

Employee of the Quarter: Bernie Tebo

Court Administration is pleased to name Law Clerk Bernie Tebo as the Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2013.

“Bernie has a heavy workload as the lone law clerk in Putnam County. He is a team player and has a very positive attitude,” wrote the nominator. “He is always willing to help others with work outside the realm of his job description.”

Third quarter 2013 nominations must be received by Oct. 18. Please send nominations to the attention of Anne Landolfa, Personnel, Courthouse Annex, 125 E. Orange Ave., Suite 300, Daytona Beach 32114. You may also email your nominations to alandolfa@circuit7.org.

One-on-One with Bernie Tebo

Title: Law Clerk

Location: Putnam County Courthouse, Palatka

Years with Court Administration: 8 years

Previous work experience: I worked in television and radio advertising sales after graduating from college in Tallahassee. I later joined the United States Army where I was stationed in the Persian Gulf and Ft. Bliss, Texas (El Paso). After the Army, I worked at a private company in Dallas representing employers in Unemployment Compensation Appeals hearings and eventually worked at the Texas Workforce Commission until being accepted to law school which brought me back to Florida. After graduating from law school, I worked as an Unemployment Appeals Referee at the Agency for Workforce Innovation until I obtained employment with the Seventh Judicial Circuit.

Duties: The bulk of my duties entail receiving and researching motions for post-conviction relief and preparing proposed orders. I address jail credit issues, motions on probation and appointment of counsel. I prepare appellate opinions and compose memoranda for both circuit and county judges.

Best part of the job: I enjoy being part of the legal process. I assist and participate in that process behind the scenes. I have had the pleasure of working with some incredible judges during my time here and have come to appreciate working in Putnam County.

Personal: I was born in Jacksonville and moved to Tallahassee when I was 7. I graduated from Florida State with majors in Communication and Political Science. I served in the U. S. Army where I was stationed at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia directly following the tail end of the Gulf War. After the Army, I lived in Dallas until I moved to the Jacksonville area to attend law school. I graduated from Florida Coastal School of Law in 2003 and have lived in the Green Cove Springs area since 2005. While stationed at Ft. Bliss in Texas, I married my wife, Susan, in an old Spanish mission near the Rio Grande and have been married for 20 years. We have one daughter, Jenna, and a Labrador, Sookie. I enjoy music, history, travel, fun and food.



Bernie Tebo

The Courts in our Community

As part of the Seventh Judicial Circuit's diversity efforts, the Community Outreach Subcommittee keeps track of the speaking engagements by judicial and Court Administration personnel. The listings below are an example of how judges and employees work in the community to create a heightened awareness of the courts system through informative talks and tours.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Community Outreach Speakers' Bureau, have information regarding a past speaking engagement, or know of a community group that would be interested in hearing about the Court, please contact the Court Administrator's Office at (386) 257-6097.

Youth and Schools

4/10 - Circuit Judge Leah R. Case spoke during the National Honor Society induction ceremony at Seabreeze High School in Daytona Beach.

4/24 - Circuit Judge Hubert L. Grimes spoke at the Atlantic High School Academy of Law and Government banquet at the LPGA International Clubhouse in Daytona Beach.

4/30 - Court Communications Officer Molly Justice and Chief Deputy Clerk of Court Laura Roth spoke to public affairs reporting students from Bethune-Cookman University at the S. James Foxman Justice Center in Daytona Beach.

5/2 - Business law students from Flagler Palm Coast High School visited the Kim C. Hammond Justice Center in Bunnell. The students observed court and met with Flagler County Court Judge D. Melissa Moore Stens, Circuit Judge J. David Walsh, Circuit Judge Dennis Craig and Senior Judge A.W. Nichols.

5/3 - Flagler County Court Judge D. Melissa Moore Stens conducted a Justice Teaching lesson at Old Kings Elementary School in Flagler Beach.

5/3 - Volusia County Court Judge Steven C. Henderson met with student government students from Orange City Elementary School. The group also heard from Teen Court Coordinator Israel Gonzalez and conducted a mock trial.

5/8 - Law studies students from DeLand High School visited the Volusia County Courthouse. Law Clerk Joe Bracken spoke to the students and presided over their mock trial. The group observed Drug Court and met with Circuit Judge Joseph G. Will.

5/10 - Students from Taylor Middle High School's AVID program visited the Volusia County Courthouse. They observed court before Volusia County Court Judge Peter A.D. McGlashan and met with UA Lab and DCR staffs. The students learned about careers in law and law enforcement from As-

sistant State Attorney Rachel Ebert and Sgt. Mike Campanella with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office. Circuit Judge Raul A. Zambrano and Volusia County Court Judge Steven C. Henderson spoke to the group as well.

5/17 - Circuit Judge Carlos E. Mendoza spoke to students from Palatka, Crescent City and Interlachen high schools about the risks and pitfalls when entering adulthood.

5/18 - Volusia County Court Judge Judith D. Davidson participated in the Take Stock in Children annual breakfast in Daytona Beach.

5/24 - Circuit Judge Howard M. Maltz met with students from the School for the Deaf and Blind at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center in St. Augustine. The class also met with court staff and Assistant State Attorney Jason Lewis.

6/6 -- Volusia County Court Judge Peter A.D. McGlashan met with home school students from Volusia Homeschoolers and Enterprise 4H at the Volusia County Courthouse in DeLand.

Community Organizations

3/26 - Circuit Judge Randell H. Rowe III met with participants in Leadership West Volusia at the Volusia County Courthouse in DeLand. The class also heard from Sheriff Ben Johnson and State Attorney R.J. Larizza.

4/26 - Chief Judge William A. Parsons and attorney Kelly Parsons gave a sentencing workshop and facilitated a civil mock trial with participants in Leadership Daytona Beach at the City Island Courthouse Annex in Daytona Beach.

5/2 - Circuit Judge Thomas G. Portuallo swore in new volunteers for the Guardian Ad Litem program.

2014 Holiday Calendar

Wednesday, January 1, 2014	New Year's Day
Monday, January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Friday, April 18	Good Friday
Monday, May 26	Memorial Day
Friday, July 4	Independence Day
Monday, September 1	Labor Day
Thursday, September 25	Rosh Hashanah
Tuesday, November 11	Veterans Day
Thursday, November 27 & Friday, November 28	Thanksgiving
Thursday, December 25 & Friday, December 26	Christmas

Calendar of Events

July 4-5 - Independence Day (Holiday)

July 16-18 - Annual Conference of County Court Judges (Naples)

August 2 - Circuit Judges Meeting (Palatka)

August 4-7 - Annual Conference of Circuit Judges (Daytona Beach)

August 7-9 - Foreclosure Training (Daytona Beach)

August 8-10 - Dispute Resolution Conference (Orlando)

August 16 - Volusia County Court Judges Meeting (Daytona Beach)

August 28 – 30 - Child Protection Summit (Orlando)

September 2 - Labor Day (Holiday)

September 5 - Rosh Hashanah (Holiday)

September 20 - Volusia County Court Judges Meeting (Daytona Beach)

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