

# Circuit Courier

January-March 2012  
Vol. 2012-1

NEWS BULLETIN OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Investiture of County Court Judge Robert Panse**  
**Judge G. Keyser Appointed to Circuit Court**  
**2012 Bench/Bar Conference**  
**Therapy Dog Program**

*And more...*







*Cover photo: Main Judicial Center, WPB  
Photo by: Deputy Bill LaFlamme*



Judge I. C. Smith

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit remembers retired County **Judge I. C. Smith**, who passed away, on Tuesday, February 29, 2012, at the age of 89.

Judge Smith was a native Floridian and graduated with honors from Florida A & M College and Brooklyn Law School. He joined college friend William Holland in 1954, becoming the county's third black lawyer. Together, they took on cases that would help change the face of society in Palm Beach County, including working tirelessly to integrate the public school system, eliminating separate eating facilities at the turnpike plazas and integrating the municipal golf course and local restaurants.

In 1984, Governor Bob Graham appointed Attorney Smith as County Judge where he served until retirement in 1992.

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## JUDGE KAREN MARTIN RETIREMENT LUNCHEON

On March 8, 2012, **Judge Karen L. Martin** was recognized at a luncheon in her honor. The luncheon was attended by judges, magistrates, judicial assistants, court deputies, court staff, family and friends.

Judge Martin retired in January after 30 years on the bench.



l-r: Lace Vitunac (mother), Charles Vitunac (brother), Judge Karen Martin, Suzanne Vitunac (brother's wife), and Judge Ann Vitunac, (sister)



Judge Karen Martin (center) with court deputies:  
l-r: Charley Callahan, Tim Kennedy, and Mike Palladino

## JUDGE GREGORY M. KEYSER APPOINTED TO CIRCUIT COURT

### GOVERNOR SCOTT APPOINTS JUDGE GREGORY KEYSER TO THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

**1/25/2012 Tallahassee, Fla.**

Governor Rick Scott announced today the appointment of Judge Gregory M. Keyser, of Boca Raton, to the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court.

Judge Keyser, 56, has served on the Palm Beach County Court since 2011. Previously, he practiced with Billing, Cochran, Lyles, Mauro and Ramsey from 2002 to 2011. His additional private practice includes Gay, Keyser and Berkowitz from 2001 to 2002; Gay, Ramsey and Warren from 2000 to 2001; Sachs, Sax, and Klein from 1997 to 2000; Paxton, Crow, Bragg, Smith and Keyser from 1988 to 1997; Marchbanks and Feaman from 1987 to 1988; Paxton, Crow, Bragg and Smith from 1981 to 1987; and MacMillan, Newett, Strawn, Stanley and Botos from 1980 to 1981. Keyser received a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a law degree from the University of Florida.

“Since serving on the county bench, Judge Keyser has gained invaluable insight into the patience and fairness needed in the judicial process,” Governor Scott said. “His previous 30 years of practicing law have given him a good understanding of the issues facing the people of the Fifteenth Circuit.”

Judge Keyser will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Karen L. Martin.

#### **Message From Chief Judge Peter Blanc re: Judicial Reassignment:**

Circuit Judge Gregory Keyser will begin his assignment at the North County Courthouse in Family Division “FI” and Probate Division “II” on Monday, March 19. My thanks to the senior judges who have assisted with coverage for Division “FI” from January 17 through this date.

# INVESTITURE OF JUDGE ROBERT PANSE

**Judge Robert Panse** was appointed to the County Court by Governor Charlie Crist effective December 5, 2011.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Panse was a senior attorney and senior supervising attorney for the South Florida Water Management District from 1992-2011. Previously, he practiced with Paxton, Crow, Bragg, Smith and Keyser P.A. from 1985 to 1991 and served as an assistant state attorney with the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office from 1982 to 1985.

Judge Panse received a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Albany and a law degree from Florida State University College of Law.

Judge Panse's first assignment is in Civil Division "RL" on the sixth floor of the Main Judicial Center.

His judicial assistant is **Janny Phillips**. The office can be reached at 561-355-2768.

Family, colleagues, and friends gathered in ceremonial courtroom 11A of the Palm Beach County Main Judicial Center on January 20, 2012, for the investiture of **Judge Robert Panse** as a County Court Judge for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

Following the invocation from Father Art Venezia, Judge Panse's daughter, Grace Sullivan-Panse, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc** then welcomed the group and acknowledged the Judicial Nominating Committee. The Judicial Commission, signed by **Governor Rick Scott**, was presented by **Un Cha Kim** on behalf of **Sharon R. Bock**, Clerk and Comptroller of Palm Beach County.

**Judge Gregory M. Keyser** presented a desk plate on behalf of the Florida Conference of County Court Judges. A Bible was presented by **Gary S. Lesser, Esq.**, representing the Florida Bar Board of Governors.

**Chief Judge Peter D. Blanc** administered the Oath of Office as Aida Lopez held the Bible. The honor of enrobing Judge Panse went to his children, Bridget Sullivan-Panse and Robert Sullivan-Panse.

Several traditional and ceremonial gifts were presented to **Judge Panse**: The gavel was presented by **John M. Howe, Esq.**, President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association; followed by other gifts presented by **Jay A. Schwartz, Esq.**, President of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association; **Michael J. Pike, Esq.**, President of Palm Beach County Justice Association, and **Richard Benrubi, Esq.**, Vice President of the Palm Beach Chapter of the American Board of Trial Attorneys (ABOTA).

Following remarks by **Edward Artau, Esq.**, **Judge Panse** thanked his family and members of the Judiciary who were present.

The ceremony concluded with final comments from **Alfred LaSorte, Esq.**



Chief Judge Peter Blanc administers the Oath of Office to Judge Panse, as Aida Lopez holds the Bible.



Jr: Judge Panse is congratulated by Judge Peter Evans.



# 2012 BENCH/BAR CONFERENCE

On March 9, 2012, the Palm Beach County Bar Association once again hosted a very successful Bench/Bar conference at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. This annual event provides a valuable opportunity for the judiciary and legal community to interact and discuss topics related to their respective legal practice areas.

Judges in Attendance:

Chief Judge Peter Blanc  
Judge Ronald Alvarez  
Judge Nelson Bailey  
Judge Moses Baker  
Judge August Bonavita  
Judge Sandra Bosso-Pardo  
Judge Lucy Chernow Brown  
Judge Catherine Brunson  
Judge Marni Bryson  
Judge Charles Burton  
Judge Frank Castor  
Judge Barry Cohen  
Judge Jeffrey Colbath  
Judge Reginald Corlew  
Judge Jack Cox  
Judge David Crow  
Judge Sheree Cunningham  
Judge Mark Eissey  
Judge Peter Evans  
Judge Edward Fine  
Judge David French  
Judge Donald Hafele  
Judge Leonard Hanser  
Judge Glenn Kelley  
Judge Janis Keyser  
Judge Kathleen Kroll  
Judge Diana Lewis  
Judge James Martz  
Judge Joseph Marx  
Judge Krista Marx  
Judge Timothy McCarthy  
Judge Karen Miller  
Judge Richard Oftedal  
Judge Robert Panse  
Judge Nancy Perez  
Judge John Phillips  
Judge Robin Rosenberg  
Judge Rosemarie Scher  
Judge Caroline Shepherd  
Judge Lisa Small  
Judge Amy Smith  
Judge Debra Moses Stephens

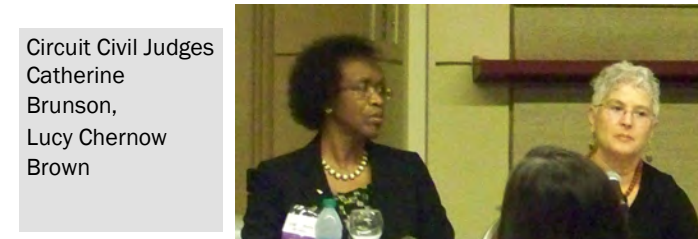
The conference opened with judges and staff facilitating sessions geared to newly admitted attorneys, solo/small firm practitioners and out of county practitioners. This was the first year for this format which provided an opportunity to learn about the different rules, orders, and divisional instructions governing the various divisions in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

The morning basic break out sessions were led by judges from various divisions of the court in the format of panel discussions. The panels included judicial assistants and case managers and were moderated by Court Administration staff Amy Borman (civil), Tara Kranz (unified family court), Mary Quinlan (probate and guardianship) and Michelle Spangenberg (criminal).

During the lunch break, attendees were welcomed by PBC Bar President John M. Howe. Public Defender, Cary Haughwout was awarded the Professionalism Award and the Inaugural Judge Edward Rodgers Diversity Award was presented to the law firm of Greenberg Traurig.



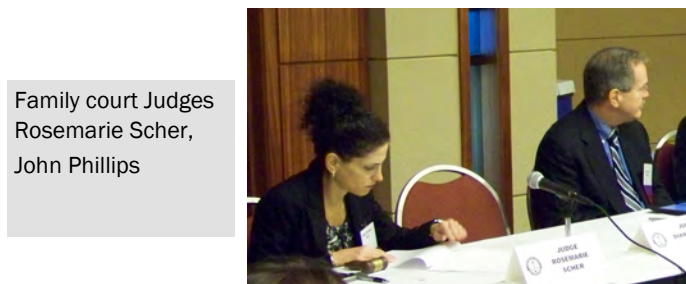
Circuit Civil Judges  
David French,  
David Crow



Circuit Civil Judges  
Catherine  
Brunson,  
Lucy Chernow  
Brown



Family Court Judges  
Lisa Small, Thomas  
Barkdull



Family court Judges  
Rosemarie Scher,  
John Phillips



Retired Judge Kenneth  
Stern, Probate Judge  
Diana Lewis



County Criminal  
Judge Nelson Bailey,  
Attorney Frank  
Kreidler

## BENCH / BAR CONFERENCE: CONT.

A special presentation was made to **Judges Elizabeth Maass and Karen Martin** who retired from the bench this past year. The group was also honored by remarks from Florida Supreme Court Justice **Barbara Pariente** who spoke of the importance of an independent judiciary.

The guest speaker this year was Professor Bruce Rogow from Nova University who spoke about the many heroes within the legal system that have fought for justice sometimes at great personal cost to themselves.

The afternoon sessions were intended for judges, magistrates and attorneys, and consisted of small seminars in a variety of substantive legal areas. Several members of the Judiciary participated in group discussion which included Civil Law, Family Law, Juvenile Law (led by Cristy Altaro), Personal Injury and Commercial Litigation, Criminal Law, and Appellate Practice.



Judge Timothy McCarthy, Judge Karen Martin, Justice Barbara Pariente, John Howe, Judge Elizabeth Maass, Judge Robert Gross



left: General Counsel Amy Borman, Justice Barbara Pariente



above: Attorney Robin Scher, Magistrate Maxine Williams



right: Family Court Judge Jack Cox



above: Magistrate assistant Miguel Baque, Magistrate Sara Alijewicz

above: Special thanks for the technical support: Shilpa Vuppalanchi, Sarwar Siddiqi, Shawn Garland



above: Chief Deputy Court Administrator Mary Quinlan, Magistrate Diane Kirigin, Unified Family Court Manager Tara Kranz, Director of Case Management Michelle Spangenberg

- Participants include:**
- Magistrates:**
- Sara Alijewicz
  - Judette Fanelli
  - Diane Kirigin
  - Maxine Williams
- Judicial Assistants:**
- Stefanie Lee
  - Mary Beardsley
  - Marilyn Cartwright
  - Kristen Colbath
  - Mona Driscoll
  - Torina J. Edwards
  - Mary Ellis
  - Jeri Fickes
  - Brenda Gleason
  - Diana Grant
  - Carol Hall
  - Donna Holden
  - Joli Katz
  - Audrie Leo
  - Harriet Merlin
  - Gerrie Michel
  - Devon Mugridge
  - Sherrie Norton
  - Janny Phillips
  - Rebecca Ricker
  - Sherry Riggio
  - Roberta Rubin
  - Michelle Smith
  - Carmen Sosa
  - Irene Venoff
  - Jessica Wolfkill
  - Maryann Yarosz
  - Celanne Ziegler
- Staff:**
- Amy Borman
  - Mary Quinlan
  - Michelle Spangenberg
  - Cristy Altaro
  - Miguel Baque
  - Paula Carvajal
  - Angela Claud
  - Bill Moreno
  - Pat Balch
  - Tara Kranz
  - Ruth Ann Kravetz
  - Jill Mitchell
  - Tehera Smith
  - Connie Thomas



## JUDGE JEFFREY COLBATH RECEIVES AWARD

On March 1, 2012, **Judge Jeffrey Colbath** was presented with the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award in the field of Government/Public Service by the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County.

This Award recognizes alumni of Palm Beach County public schools whose deeds and character exemplify outstanding achievement in their life's work and recognizes the service and contributions they have made to their communities.

**Judge Colbath** was a graduate of Palm Beach Gardens High School and was honored to be joined by his former principal, Ed Eissey and current principal Larry Clawson.

The ceremony was held at the Marriott in West Palm Beach.



l-r: Ed Eissey , former principal of Palm Beach Gardens High, congratulates Judge Jeffrey Colbath

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## Judge Krista Marx and the Mental Health Specialty Team Selected to Receive the 2012 Prudential-Davis Productivity Award

**Judge Krista Marx** and the Mental Health Specialty Division team have been selected to receive the 2012 Prudential-Davis Productivity Award for the creation of a first-in-Florida specialized court for felony competency cases.

The team includes **Judge Krista Marx**, Judicial Assistant Amy Tracy, Assistant Public Defender Jennifer Marshall (former team member), Assistant State Attorney Elizabeth Neto, Chief Deputy Court Administrator Mary Quinlan, and former employee Marcella Millett.

In 2010-2011, the Mental Health Specialty Division reduced the time to case adjudication on an average 2.5 months which also reduced the cost of mental health experts and reduced the average time a mentally ill defendant spent in jail prior to transfer to a forensic state hospital, saving approximately \$674,125.

Consolidating competency cases into one specialized court expedites the case flow of these complicated cases, allowing the more efficient use of judicial resources.

The award will be presented in Fort Lauderdale on June 20, 2012.

## Judge Robin Rosenberg Speaks at the “Alliance of Delray”

On Wednesday, February 1, 2012 **Judge Robin Rosenberg** was the featured speaker at the South County Civic Center. **Judge Rosenberg** spoke on behalf of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit about the judges role in the Florida Judicial System. She also discussed the growing trend of cases being settled before trial either by mediation (non-binding) or arbitration (binding or non-binding).



## Judge Nelson Bailey Hosts Judge Moses Bakers’ Cub Scout Troop

On Friday, December 30, 2011, **Judge Nelson Bailey** welcomed Cub Scout Pack 116. The Scouts listened attentively to information regarding Florida History, toured the grounds of his ranch, and asked many questions.

**Judge Moses Baker, Jr.**, Den Leader, along with other Den leaders and Cub Scout parents enjoyed overnight camping at Lion Country Safari.



Judge Moses Baker (center back row) and Judge Nelson Bailey (center with beard)

left: Judge Nelson Bailey instructing the cub scout pack at his ranch as Judge Moses Baker, Jr. (foreground) looks on.





# THERAPY DOGS IN THE COURTROOM

For adult litigants, attending a court proceeding is a stressful experience. In the past, for a child in the dependency system in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, attending a court proceeding was potentially traumatic. But, due to the support of **Judge Ronald Alvarez**, a tireless advocate for the children in the dependency system, there is a therapy dog at the side of every child attending hearings or trials in Juvenile Division JK to ease the trauma.

On Wednesday, March 14, 2012, **Judge Alvarez** introduced the first therapy dogs used in a courtroom of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit for children. In attendance at his first dependency docket day were: Karma, a standard poodle and Sunshine, a bichon frise. “It is wonderful to watch a child relax and smile in the presence of the therapy dog,” said **Judge Alvarez**.

Karma, a standard poodle and Sunshine, a bichon frise, provide comfort



“On the days when the therapy dogs are in court, the dog has a soothing effect on everyone. But there is no doubt that the children in the dependency system, many of whom have been sexually, physically, or emotionally abused, are provided solace and emotional comfort by the therapy dogs.”

The therapy dog project was inspired by **Magistrate Judette Fanelli**. It was her vision that the presence of a therapy dog in the courtroom would encourage children to attend Judicial Review Hearings and help to lessen the children’s stress. Quickly envisioning the potential benefits to the children, **Judge Alvarez** readily offered Juvenile Division JK for the Judicial Review therapy dog pilot project.

A lot of research was done into courthouse therapy dog programs around the country and local therapy dog groups. Chief Deputy Court Administrator Mary Quinlan found several therapy dog programs willing to volunteer therapy dogs and handlers to the therapy dog pilot project.

The therapy dog pilot project required the creation of a child friendly waiting area for the children and therapy dog to meet. A bright, cheerful child-friendly waiting area was created by Jenifer Sims, assistant to **Magistrate Fanelli**, and Cristy Altaro, Juvenile Alternative Sanctions Coordinator.

The results have been amazing. All agree the Juvenile Division JK therapy dog project is a resounding success. There are more than sixteen therapy dogs and handlers ready to attend hearings and trials. If you have some time, please stop and visit the Juvenile Division JK therapy dogs.

left: Therapy dogs with Judge Ronald Alvarez and Magistrate Judette Fanelli

## THERAPY DOGS IN THE COURTROOM: CONT.

### **Orla: The First Therapy Dog to be used in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit for Judicial Reviews (JR's).**

**Orliath, (Orla)** which means "golden princess" is a nine year old golden retriever. She's one of several therapy dogs with 'Sunshine on a Leash'. Her handler, Susan Walker, is a busy trial attorney but volunteers one day a week to the Judicial Reviews.

On January 23, 2012, Orla, and her handler, attended the first day of Judicial Reviews. Very shortly after the pilot project began, a pre-teen youth attended a JR. She was totally shut down. Her attorney reported that, when he attempted to speak with her, he was forced to lay on the floor and speak to her. She would not look up. When questioned, she spoke to the floor.

Gradually, Orla inched forward. She sat under the youth and nudged her feet. The youth tentatively touched Orla. Orla moved closer. Finally, the youth, with Orla pressed by her side, started petting Orla, lifted her head up and participated in the Judicial Review.



At one recent Judicial Review:

*"When the testimony began about the behavioral problems experienced by the young boy in school, he quietly slid down to the floor and lay next to Orla. Orla put her paw over his shoulder. When, shortly thereafter, the testimony began about the parents' (and specifically their lack of case plan compliance) and where the children would live, his sister slid down to the floor, lay on the other side of Orla, and gave Orla a big hug. The children and Orla stayed there for at least five minutes. Orla comforted them. When they finally sat up, each child had the courage to testify clearly and unemotionally about where they wanted to live, Orla remained close at hand.*

*The presence of Orla turned a potentially emotionally charged stressful day in court into a positive experience for these children. These two children, along with their older brother, left the JR leading Orla's leash and smiling widely."*

*Magistrate Judette Fanelli*

*"something magical happens between the therapy dog and the children."*

*Judge Ronald Alvarez*



Orla comforts the brother and sister during testimony

*"The children enter a crowded hearing room full of people accompanied by a gentle therapy dog. In the hearing room, Orla remains at the children's side. Orla enjoys the children's petting, hugs, and kisses. She stoically endures the frenetic jumping toddlers. She calms the stress of the older, anxious children. For some children, Orla helps to unlock their fears. Orla has even broken down the children's barriers ."*

*Magistrate Judette Fanelli*



## TRIAL COURT LAW CLERKS

The following attorneys have joined the circuit in the first quarter of 2012 to serve as Staff Attorneys in the branch courthouses.

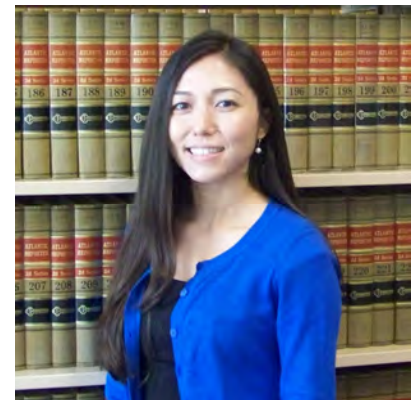
### Angela Claud

Angela received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Legal Studies from the University of Central Florida in May 2006. In December 2009, Angela graduated from Florida Coastal School of Law where she was on the Dean's Scholar List and received the Book Award for the Highest Grade in both Lawyering Process I and Lawyering Process II. During law school, Angela was a teaching assistant for Lawyering Process I and a judicial intern for the Fourth Judicial Circuit's Staff Attorney's Office. Prior to taking the position as Staff Attorney to the North County Courthouse, Angela was the Civil Court Operations Manager at the central courthouse where she supervised and trained foreclosure division staff members and volunteers and was responsible for foreclosure administrative matters and the implementation of foreclosure procedures.



### Michele Nihiser

Michele received her Bachelor of Science *cum laude*, in Honors Criminology from Florida Statute University in December 2006 where she was a National Merit Scholar. During college, Michele interned for the Office of the Attorney General in the Criminal Appeals and Victim Advocacy Divisions. In the fall of 2007, Michele attended Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center, where she was a Public Service Fellowship Recipient and a clerical student assistant in the Alumni & Development Office. While in law school Michele interned with the Major Crime and Economic Crime Divisions of the United States Attorney's Office (summer 2008), for Judge Towbin Singer of the 17th Judicial Circuit (summer 2009), and the 15th Judicial Circuit (fall 2009). Michele worked for a litigation firm in Broward County prior to rejoining the 15th Judicial Circuit as the staff attorney assigned to the South County Courthouse.



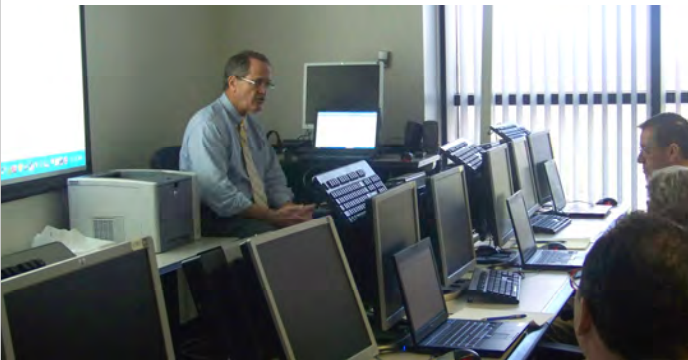
### Sarah Chussler

Sarah is a LegalCorps Fellow from the University of Miami School of Law. Sarah received her Bachelor of Arts in International Politics with minors in French and Francophone Studies, and History from Pennsylvania State University. During law school, Sarah was a Housing Unit Extern for the Dade County Bar Association Legal Aid Society, and completed a summer internship for a Nassau County Supreme Court Judge in Mineola, New York. Sarah has been assisting at the South County Courthouse and will be with the circuit through the middle of May 2012.

## Child Support Training

On January 19, 2012, the family case managers and family **Judges Thomas Barkdull** and **Jack Cox** attended a training session conducted by **Judge John Phillips** to review the features and performance of Divorce Planner, a Child Support Calculation Program.

The Program assists case managers and family Judges in calculating Child Support figures and obtaining other relevant data in pending cases in Family Court.



## Law Clerk Training

On January 14, 2012 the Trial Court Law Clerks visited **Judge Nelson Bailey** in Belle Glade where they observed various court proceedings and spoke with Assistant State Attorney Rob Shepherd and Assistant Public Defender Paul Caruso.

During lunch the attorneys and **Judge Bailey** toured the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida and learned much about the agricultural community which comprises Western Palm Beach County.



l-r: Law clerks Dolores Francis and Angelique Thomas

## Showcase

On February 21, 2012, the Clerk and Comptroller “went live” with their new Showcase system in traffic court.

Simultaneously, the Traffic Hearing Officers (THO) began utilizing the paperless Showcase system in their traffic courtrooms.



Pictured left, is THO John Kurtz reviewing both citations and driving records online in lieu of reading the hard copies of same.

## Process Servers

After completing a day of training and passing an examination, Chief Judge Blanc swore in 45 new certified process servers on Thursday, January 19, 2012.

The certified process server program accepts applicants in October of each year and is managed by General Counsel **Amy Borman** with the assistance of **Maria Vasil**.





*Several tours were provided in February to retirees, students and participants of Women of Tomorrow.*

*Many thanks and appreciation to members of the judiciary, court staff, volunteers and PBSO deputies who have helped facilitate the tour groups and contributed to activities.*

For information on courthouse tours please contact Katrina Manuel at 561-355-3574.



A group of retired gentlemen from Boynton Beach visited the Courthouse on February 14 and enjoyed a special tour. After visiting the Juvenile Court building, they observed the courtroom of Judge Jeffrey Colbath and a jury selection in progress. They also assembled in the law library where they enjoyed discussions with Judge Jack Cox and Judge Peter Evans (as shown above) and Judge Ronald Alvarez.



Judge Peter Evans (not pictured) speaks to students from Emerald Cove Middle School. This was the third of three student groups. Earlier groups observed court proceedings with several other judges.



Coordinator Dorothy Long, (left) and students from Women of Tomorrow mentees. They met with Judge Debra Stephens, Judge Caroline Shepherd, Judge Robin Rosenberg, Judge Meenu Sasser, Judge Nancy Perez and retired teacher/volunteer, Raye Johnson. A common theme spoken to the students is the importance of volunteering.

## NEW CHIEF OF PERSONNEL SERVICES

**Dominique Therese March** has been selected to serve as the Chief of Personnel Services for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Effective January 3, 2012, she will oversee the Human Resources Division of the Court.

Dominique obtained a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law and a Bachelor of Science in Humanities from Georgetown University. For the past several years she has been employed as a human resources professional and employment lawyer in private practice. Her strengths include an excellent command of employment law and employment-related policies and procedures.



## NEW CIVIL COURT OPERATIONS MANAGER

**Devon Mugridge** has been selected for the position of Civil Court Operations Manager for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Effective March 22, 2012, she will coordinate and supervise the staffing of an effort, funded by the Legislature for one year and commencing on July 1, 2012, aimed at resolving foreclosure cases.

Devon holds an Associate Degree in Applied Science, Paralegal Studies, and the Arts, and has over twenty-five years' experience working in the legal communities. She has worked as the Judicial Assistant to Judge Diana Lewis for the last five years, and most recently was assigned to the Foreclosure and Probate Division, where she gained valuable insight into the foreclosure process.



## NEW MENTAL HEALTH CASE MANAGER

**Nicholas Fricke** has been selected for the position of Mental Health Case Manager for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. His primary duty will be to work as the case manager to the Mental Health Specialty Team, which includes monitoring cases and compiling statistical data.

Nicholas obtained a Bachelor degree in Psychology from the University of Northern Iowa. He was most recently employed at the South County Mental Health Center where he worked closely with Judge Krista Marx and Mary Quinlan.





## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Administrative Orders amended January 1-March 31, 2012 are:

2.708-1/12, Procedures for Reporting Arrests, Convictions, Sanctions or Penalties Imposed on Certified Process Servers

6.101-1/12, Probate and Guardianship Division Regions, Hearing Sites and Assignment Criteria

3.308-1/12, Case Management of Residential Foreclosure Cases and Mandatory Mediation Referral

3.602-1/12, Residential Eviction Summons

11.101-1/12, Assignment of Judges

11.102-1/12, Administrative Judges and Executive Committee

11.106-1/12, Alternate Assignments

11.104-1/12, Seniority Listing of Judges

5.105-1/12, Procedures for Private Placement Adoption Proceedings Pursuant to Florida Statute 63

2.207-2/12, Requests for Accommodations Under the Americans with Disabilities Act

12-12.501-2/12, Management of Court Activities During Case Management System Conversion

4.602-2/12, Assignment of Cases – Criminal Division, County Court

4.205-2/12 - Discharge of Surety and Cash Bonds

5.505-3/12, Establishment of Domestic Violence Divisions “FT” and “FV”

10.301-3/12, Civil Traffic Infraction Hearing Officer Program

11.106-3/12, Alternate Assignments

11.101-3/12, Assignment of Judges

3.301-3/12, Foreclosure Sales and Cancellation of Foreclosure Sales

3.302-3/12, Foreclosure Division – “AW”

3.304-3/12, Foreclosure Judgments

2.201-3/12, Courthouse Security and Screening

3.906-3/12, Administrative Closure of Reopened County Court Civil Actions

11.110-3/12, Appointment of Circuit Judges as Acting County Judges & County Judges as Acting Circuit Judges

For updates to the latest Administrative Orders (AO's) for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, please see our website at:

<http://15thcircuit.co.palm-beach.fl.us/web/guest/ao>.

## LAW LIBRARY SERVICES

**Email Service/Fax Service**

**Copy Machines**

**CLE CD Rentals**

**Westlaw**

**Stamped Envelopes**

**Blank Orders**

**TV/DVD/Elmo rental**

**Military Employment Verification**

**Law Library Staff will do an online search and print a document to show if a person is currently on active duty.**

**\$5 service charge**

**Call 561 355-2928**

## WELCOME TO THE CIRCUIT

### New Employees:

**Dominique March:** Chief of Personnel Services

**Andrea Morris:** Judicial Assistant

**Nicholas Fricke:** Mental Health Case Manager

**Natashia Harris:** Administrative Assistant

**Maria Powers:** Court Reporter II

**Michele Nihiser:** Trial Court Law Clerk

**Amber Capotero:** Senior Secretary

### Congratulations to:

**Mary Quinlan:** Chief Deputy Court Administrator

**Michelle Spangenberg:** Director of Case Management

**Susan Wiggins:** Court Reporting Manager

**Tehera Smith:** Court Operations Manager-South County

**Devon Mugridge:** Civil Court Operations Manager

**Angela Claud:** Trial Court Law Clerk

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### May

Volunteer Appreciation Day —Main Courthouse

Volunteer Appreciation Day —South County

2 Juror Appreciation Day

6 Law Day Luncheon

13 Statewide Drug Court Graduation

## COURT HOLIDAYS

### April

6 Good Friday

### May

28 Memorial Day

