

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2019 | VOLUME 2019 - 3

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JUDGE COLBATH RETIRES

On September 10th, the Honorable Jeffrey Colbath was recognized by the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners with a proclamation honoring him. Judge Colbath served 27 years as a judge, initially as a County Court Judge in 1992 and then as a Circuit Court Judge in 2003. His tenure also included two terms as Chief Judge. He retired on September 30th.

Judge Colbath was known as an advocate for fair and equitable wages for judicial assistants, court staff, and judges. In his retirement letter to Governor Ron DeSantis, Judge Colbath urged for increased funding for the courts, particularly since less than one percent of the state budget is allocated for state courts. The Circuit thanks him for his service and wishes him well in his retirement.



At Judge Colbath's Proclamation, **Left to Right:** Mary Quinlan, Debra Oats, Barbara Dawicke, Commissioner Dave Kerner, Chief Judge Marx, Judge Bosso-Pardo, Judge Nutt, Judge Bell, Magistrate Maxine Williams, Judge Colbath; **Top Right:** Tammy Anton, Cristy Altaro, Devon Mugridge, Tara Kranz, Noel Chessman, Michelle Cruz, April Bristow, **Bottom Right:** Judge Gillman, Magistrate Jean-Adel Williams, Melissa Sotillo, Danni Hoefling, and Nicholas Fricke.

AWARDS & HONORS

Employee Recognition Award Winners



Award recipient Alexei Lopez, (center) with Noel Chessman, Chief Information Officer (left), and Chief Judge Marx (right)



Award recipient Kim Phillips (center) with Judge Keever-Agrama (left) and Chief Judge Marx (right)

Congratulations to the individuals nominated for the Employee Recognition awards for the third quarter of 2019. Nominees included: Judicial Assistants Gloria Lozano and Kim Phillips, and Court Administration staff Susannah Clancy, Rosa Diaz, Alexei Lopez, and Celia Muñoz.

The Chief Judge announced the winners at the ceremony on July 30th. **Kim Phillips** was named the Judicial Assistant of the Quarter, and **Alexei Lopez** was named the Court Administration Employee of the Quarter. Award winners receive a paid administrative leave day; a month of parking in the judicial parking garage; an official Circuit tumbler; a plaque; and the Circuit's "Perpetual Trophy."

To nominate an employee for a recognition award, visit

<http://151.132.36.247/nominations/>.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual Judicial Assistants Association of Florida Conference

The annual Judicial Assistants Association of Florida Educational Conference, hosted by the 20th Judicial Circuit, was held September 24th–27th, 2019 at the Naples Grande in Naples, Florida. Presenters came from a variety of areas such as health care professionals, law enforcement officers, as well as judges from the 20th Circuit. Topics included Unified Family Court, Risk Protection Orders, Dealing with Addiction – When the Family in Crises is Yours, Drug Court & Mental Health Court, The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children, Human Trafficking, and Ex Parte Communications. Shown below are attendees from the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.



Left to right: Andrea Morris, Carey Helmes, Diana Grant, Bridget Schloss, Brenda Gleason, Lesley Restivo, Torino Jenkins-Edwards, Sandra Becerra, Marianna Contreras and Denise Van Vooren.

Florida Dispute Resolution Center Conference



Above: Mediators Jeff Kash and Toni O'Brien present at the Florida Dispute Resolution Center Conference

On August 15th-17th, ADR Director Danni Hoefling and a majority of the staff and contract mediators attended the Florida Dispute Resolution Center's 27th Annual Conference: "Options and Opportunities." The Conference was held in Orlando and offered learning and training opportunities in varied areas including Ethics, Cybersecurity, Interpersonal Violence, Leadership Skills, Elder Law Mediation and Shared Family Decision Making, and Arbitration. On the third day of the conference, staff mediators Jeff Kash and Toni O'Brien (shown left) presented two workshops designed to provide mediators with the tools to promote efficiency and safeguard ethical considerations while mediating in limited-time circumstances. Contract mediators Hadas Stagman and Michelle Burke also presented two well-received workshops exploring how the Mediator Ethics Advisory Committee ("MEAC") has interpreted the conflict of interest rule in the context of various scenarios. Conference attendees earned up to 12.6 hours of Continuing Mediation Education credit.

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts: Florida Chapter Conference

On September 25th to 27th, 2019, the 15th Annual Conference for the Florida Chapter of Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (FLAFCC) and Florida Unified Family Courts Workshop took place in Orlando, FL.

The conference theme was “Miles to Go: Moving Families Forward” and featured keynote presentations and workshops on many emerging issues that are of interest to judges, magistrates, and court staff in family court.

This year, the Unified Family Court Workshop focused on the pivotal role that court staff play in carrying out and sustaining the “One family/One judge” model. Family Court and Juvenile Court managers along with case managers from across the State gathered to talk about the history of Unified Family Court in Florida and brainstorm on best practices and challenges.



Left to Right: Danni Hoeftling, Lourdes Castillo, Magistrate Maxine Williams, Tara Kranz, and Magistrate Judette Fanelli.



Left to Right: Cristy Altaro, Brittany Astrologo, Danni Hoeftling, Tara Kranz, and Erika Ireland

Court Technology Conference

Several Court Technology employees had the opportunity to attend the Court Technology Biennial Conference in New Orleans from September 10th to 12th, 2019. Topics discussed included cyber security, the future of courtroom technology and predictions for the decade to come, as well as judicial technology standards. Additionally, other innovative jurisdictions provided demonstrations. The event also included a large vendor hall (pictured right) where the team could peruse the latest technologies on the market.



Left to Right: Rich Haney, Systems Architecture Analyst, Gigi Jones, Court Software Training Specialist, and Ramiro Vidal, Senior Programmer

Annual NACM Conference

A number of employees of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit attended the National Association for Court Management's 2019 Annual Conference, held in Las Vegas Nevada from July 21st



Left to right: Jackson Mack, Sue Ling Curtis, Magistrate Williams, Hanna Skotzke (top center), Paulina Pasquarelli, Kelly Gould, Cristy Altaro, and Gigi Jones.

through July 25th, 2019. Attendees visited sessions covering topics such as implied bias, artificial intelligence and machine learning, the court's role in preventing violentization, and other relevant topics.

Trial Court Administrator Meeting

On September 16th, to 17th, 2019, the Trial Court Administrators held a business meeting in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, in Key West. The meeting agenda included two training sessions by Ms. Gigi Jones, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit trainer. Ms. Jones' spoke on "Implicit Bias" and on the topic of "Cybersecurity." The Cybersecurity training was a condensed version of a talk held at the National Center for State Court's Court Technology Conference.

Eighteen of the twenty circuits were represented at the business meeting. Below are some of the attendees.



Above: A group of Trial Court Administrators is shown, who were grouped by their shared interests of fitness and exercise. Our own Trial Court Administrator, Barbara Dawicke, is shown in the middle.

AROUND THE COURTHOUSE

Constitution Day



Left to Right: Kathy Cleveland, Executive Director of ABOTA; Rebecca Brock, Esquire; William Price, Esquire; Burton Conner, 4th District Court of Appeal Judge; Cymonie S. Rowe, Circuit Judge; Samantha Schosberg Feuer, Circuit Judge; John Lurvey, Esquire; Reed Kellner, Esquire; Dr. Jeraline Johnson, Palm Beach County School Board

On September 13th, Judges Feuer, Rowe, and Conner (4th DCA) took part in Constitution Day. Students were invited for activities including a discussion on free speech, search and seizure, and equal protection. Students found the program informative and engaging and had great insight regarding the liberties afforded by our Constitution. To the left are individuals who were instrumental in organizing the event.

Internet Safety and Cyberbullying

On July 25th, Judge Collins hosted a presentation at the Belle Glade Public Library on Internet Safety and Cyberbullying to local middle and high school teens. The trainings, of which this is the second, are sponsored by the Palm Beach County Law Related Education Committee. Judge Collins currently presides in Belle Glade.



Judge Collins presents to local teens on Cyberbullying at the Belle Glade Public Library

Ice Cream Social



The Chief Judge and Court Administrator held an ice cream social on August 13th. Court staff and judicial assistants attended this event intended to express appreciation for all the support and work they provide to the circuit on a daily basis.

Above: Barbara Dawicke, Trial Court Administrator (far right), and Chief Judge Marx (middle) help with serving ice cream to court administration staff and judicial assistants

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

The circuit held a volunteer appreciation brunch on Monday, July 15th to recognize the many volunteers of the Fifteenth Circuit. After the volunteers had a chance to enjoy brunch, a welcome was given by Chief Judge Marx, followed by a presentation from Serena Chambers, and then all volunteers were presented with certificates of appreciation.

Pictured Right:

Top Row: Lloyd Comiter, Josette Veltri

Middle Row: Robert Follick, Larry Plonsker, Danni Hoeffling, Edward Berger, Dennis Leffert, Stephen Kirschner, Isabelle Sherman, Jancy Libowitz, Joane Joseph, Carolina Elizalde

Bottom Row: Suzanne Aymes, Ruti Bell, Rita Sinofsky, Diana Zayas-Bazan



Juvenile Justice Facilities Tour

On Friday, September 20th, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) hosted a tour of residential facilities in Circuits 15 and 19. Judge Artau, Judge Bell and Judge Delgado were part of a group from Palm Beach County who participated in the all day event. In addition to the Judges, Court staff, Judicial Assistants, and other members of the juvenile justice community met at the Palm Beach County Juvenile Assessment Center to begin the day. The tour included visits to the following programs: Palm Beach County Juvenile Detention Center, Palm Beach County Youth Academy, Okeechobee County Girls Academy, and Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Corrections Center.



Above: Mamine Saintil, Judge Delgado, Lesley Restivo, Judge Bell, Cristy Altaro, Shilah James, Daniel Svec, Andrea Morris, Judge Artau, Greg Starling, DJJ Chief Probation Officer

LUNCH AND LEARN

A variety of lunch and learn presentations were offered to Court Administration employees from July through September.

On August 20th, 2019, Circuit employees had the honor of meeting Dwight Stephenson, Pro Football Hall of Famer, and Former NFL player for the Miami Dolphins. Mr. Stephenson shared his life, the charities and programs offered by his foundation, and discussed how he is helping build communities with the Dwight Stephenson Foundation. Employees were able to speak one-on-one with Mr. Stephenson, and get his autograph.



Left to Right: Dinah Stephenson, Dwight Stephenson, and Judge Rowe.

On September 13th, 2019, Sean Logsdon and Angie Duggan of the Court Interpreting Department, presented a Lunch & Learn to Circuit employees, titled, "Hispanic Heritage," during Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanic food, including arroz con pollo, empanadas and croquetas, and other tapas were provided. Their presentation covered important historical events, Hispanic leaders and influencers, and a short video was shown which displayed Latin American music and dancing.



Sean Logsdon and Angie Duggan lead a presentation on Hispanic Heritage in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

On September 24th, 2019, Michelle Sembric of the Palm Beach County Employee Assistance Program, presented a Lunch & Learn to Circuit employees, titled, "Communicating Effectively with People with Mental Illness." Ms. Sembric discussed various types of mental illness, explained how to respond to people, and listed some phrases we should not use. Her presentation included a list of helpful organizations to call for help, including the Employee Assistance Program of Palm Beach County.



Michelle Sembric presents on communicating effectively with individuals with mental illness

Book Club at Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit now has a book club in which members are meeting once a month, on a Friday during lunch, to discuss the selected book read. Shown are members holding the latest book, titled *Then She Was Gone*, a mystery of what happened to a missing teenage girl. All employees at the Fifteenth Circuit are welcome to join. If interested, contact either Melissa Sotillo, Court Reporting Manager, or Angelica Bennett, Law Library Manager.



Left to Right: Kathy Evans, Angelica Bennett, Robin Shevock, Mirna Hernandez Winn, Sara Blumberg (on screen, calling in from South County), Jennifer Ford, Erin Kenny, and Melissa Sotillo

Law Library Hosts Workshop

Lloyd Comiter, a member of the Palm Beach County Bar Association presented a workshop in the law library on July 16th. This workshop, which is a service of the Palm Beach County Bar Association Speaker's Bureau is intended to help inform the public. This presentation covered the residential landlord/tenant relationship including: drafting a lease, the rights and responsibilities of the landlord and tenant, related Florida Statutes, as well as court procedures in a landlord/tenant lawsuit. Available resources for further information were also shared, including the Self Help Center and Law Library.

Right: Lloyd Comiter, a member of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, presents on landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities



Division JS 10-Year Celebration

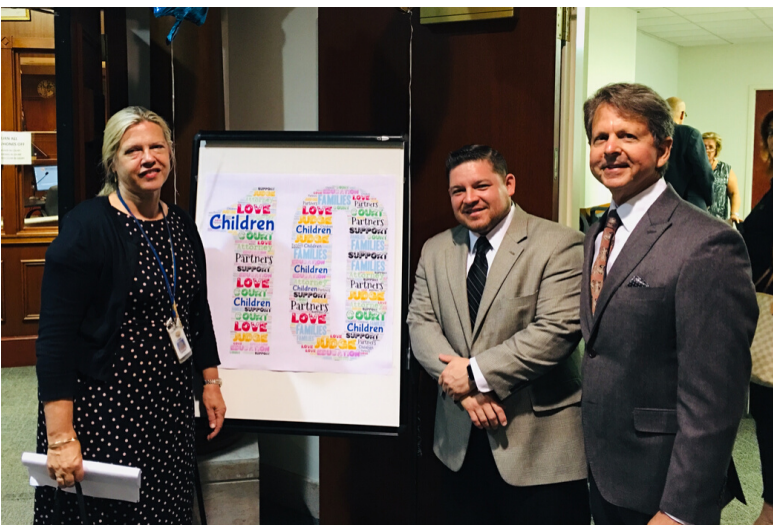
Judges and Court personnel were joined by court partners and community stakeholders to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the opening of Juvenile Division “JS” in the South County Courthouse on Thursday, August 29th. The event featured opening comments from Judge Kathleen Kroll, Administrative Judge of the Juvenile Divisions, followed by current Division JS Judge, Hon. Luis Delgado. The history of the division and accomplishments were highlighted. The event concluded with a video montage highlighting the events of the past ten years. A special thank you to Judges Moses Baker (retired) and Judge Delgado for their dedication to the Juvenile Division in South County.



Above: Judge Delgado addresses the audience



Above: Cristy Altaro, Juvenile Operations Manager (left) with Kathy Sanchez, Juvenile Court Case Manager



Above, Left to Right: Judge Kroll, Judge Delgado, and Palm Beach County Commissioner Gregg Weiss

Delinquency Drug Court

Delinquency Drug Court welcomed the Hon. Carolyn Bell as the new presiding judge of the Court on July 1, 2019. On that same date, the Delinquency Drug Court (“DDC”) team celebrated the success of four participants. The participants/graduates achieved all of their individual treatment goals and completed all of the court ordered sanctions. Present to celebrate their success stories were other DDC participants, parents, community members, team members, and advocates. Also in attendance were several Palm Beach County Commissioners. The graduates are moving on towards a hopeful future. One of the recent graduates entered college; two others were accepted into an intensive automotive training program. The DDC team expect many more graduations in the coming new year.



Juvenile Court Case Manager Brandon Richardson with Drug Court graduates



Judge Bell with Drug Court graduate



Judge Bell with Drug Court graduate and family



Judge Bell with Drug Court graduate and family

Juvenile Court Summer Program

Juvenile Court hosted the third annual summer program in May-August. The program is designed to provide a structured and supportive educational experience. Community service opportunities are offered to the youth such as how to access community resources, along with assistance in completing court-ordered sanctions.

The ten-week program occurred each Friday in the South County Courthouse, Delray Beach. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks were provided to the youth from the South Palm Beach County Florida Association of Women Lawyers and the South Palm Beach County Bar Association.

Twelve youth completed the program, nine of who successfully terminated from probation. All total, nearly 1,100 hours of community service were completed and approximately \$3,500 owed for court costs were paid. Each week the youth earned community service hours through the creation of greeting cards for veterans. Over 700 cards were created and distributed to the Veterans' hospital in West Palm Beach.

Entities that collaborated with the program included: local law enforcement; DATA; Choice to Change; (etc. —list them all with a semi-colon in between). At the end (after you list all the entities), write: The summer program concluded with a “Back to School Bash” and the participants received new backpacks filled with school supplies.



Greeting cards created for Veterans



Judge Delgado speaks to the group



Dan Svec works with the participants

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

Court Technology

Court Technology is a department of 18 employees, which includes an applications group that hosts over 30 applications, most which were written internally; a desktop group which manages over 2,000 devices; plus other positions to support the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's technology needs. Much of the work done by Court Technology is "behind the scenes," including work done after hours. Yet all departments are touched by Court Technology, thus there is still much visibility.

Technology in court systems has been exploding for over a decade, according to Chief Information Officer Noel Chessman, who pointed out that "We have to solve problems we don't even know of yet." An example of a project he is most proud of is the JVS system, which was built in-house and saved the court over \$2 million. This project was largely successful due to the support and contributions of leadership, including judges and the Chief Judge (both past and present), the Trial Court Administrator, and the ability to work with County Administration to secure resources.

Mr. Chessman anticipates that Court Technology will continue to grow because of the court's commitment to innovation and technology and the court's support to provide solutions. He points out that the real experts are the users. Because the Court Technology department is here to better serve them, the best ideas come from the users and their ideas and input are always welcome.



Court Technology Staff (Left to Right) **BACK ROW:** Ken Blanck, Ramsey Caraballo, Greg Jones, Anthony Williams, Rafal Krzemien. **MIDDLE ROW:** Sarwar Siddiqui, Jose Chazhur, Ramiro Vidal, Mordechai Spolter, Jason Silver, Noel Chessman **BOTTOM ROW:** Kathy Evans, Gigi Jones, Alexei Lopez

TECH TIPS



OUTLOOK TIPS & TRICKS



Quick Parts - Save Time Composing Emails

Like most users, you may often send the same email responses. Don't waste time searching for an old email to reuse. Quick Parts contain a gallery of reusable content, both text and pictures.

With Quick Parts, responses or snippets of text or images are saved for future emails.

Here's how it works:

1. Select "New email" and compose your email, as usual, in the text area of the message.
2. Format the text as desired, then highlight the text you wish to save.
3. Click the **Insert** tab on the ribbon then "Save Selection to Quick Part Gallery"
4. Assign the new quick part a **Name**.
Optional: category and description are not required fields. Click OK.

Try it! Create a new email, type the quick part name and press either **Enter** or **F3** on your keyboard. *Alternate method:* Using your mouse, click **Insert-Quick Parts**-then select desired entry.

The diagram illustrates the process of creating and using a Quick Part in Outlook. It shows a sequence of steps:

- A sample email text is shown: "Hello, We have received your request and will respond within 24 hours. Please contact the help desk if you need immediate assistance. Best regards,". A red box highlights the text "We have received your request and will respond within 24 hours.".
- The Outlook ribbon is shown with the **Insert** tab selected. A red box highlights the **Quick Parts** button in the **Text** group.
- The **AutoText** gallery is shown with the **Save Selection to Quick Part Gallery...** option selected. A red box highlights this option.
- The **Create New Building Block** dialog box is shown. The **Name** field is set to "Request received", the **Category** is "General", and the **Options** are set to "Insert content only". A red box highlights the **OK** button.
- The final step shows the email text with the Quick Part inserted: "Hello, We have received your request ... (Press ENTER to Insert) request". A red box highlights the inserted text.

We want to hear from you! Let us know if this feature saves you time.



"Tech Tips" is provided by Software Training Specialist Gigi Jones. For more information or to suggest a future "Tech Tips" topic, please email cad-training@pbcgov.org.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Administrative orders amended from July 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019 include:

A.O. 11.101, 7/10/2019: Assignment of Judges

A.O. 11.104, 7/10/2019: Seniority Listing of Judges

A.O. 11.106, 7/10/2019: Alternative Assignments

A.O. 7.301, 8/2/2019: Post Conviction Motions

A.O. 2.503, 8/15/2019: Court Reporting Services

A.O. 10.301, 9/6/2019: Civil Traffic Infraction Hearing Officer Program - removing two THOs

A.O. 2.209, 9/9/2019: Courthouse Access

A.O. 5.705, 9/10/2019: Early Childhood Court

A.O. 12.706, 9/19/2019: Reset of Foreclosures sales canceled due to Hurricane Dorian

A.O. 4.411, 9/23/2019: Alternative Sanctions Program for Felony Offenders

A.O. 4.902, 9/25/2019: Vehicle Immobilization

A.O. 11.110, 9/25/2019: Appointment of Circuit Judges as Acting County Judges; Appointment of County Judges as Acting Circuit Judges

A.O. 12.301, 9/27/2019: Order Temporarily Assigning the Honorable Caroline Shepherd as an Acting Circuit Judge

For updates to the latest Administrative Orders (AOs) for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, visit our website at:

<https://www.15thcircuit.com/updated-administrative-orders>

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

Welcome to our new employees who started from July 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019, including:

- Stefanie Thomas, Budget Director
- Kettly Fertil, Magistrate Assistant
- Coleman Press, Trial Court Law Clerk
- Toni-Ann Pearson, Trial Court Law Clerk
- Mia Werksman, Administrative Assistant I
- Greg Jones, Computer Specialist II
- Anthony Williams, Computer Specialist II
- Harith Dias, Probate Court Case Manager
- Vanessa Ayala, Intern - Juvenile
- Lisa Bozzone, Family Drug Court Coordinator
- Tierra McClendon, Intern - Juvenile
- Damary Stokes, Magistrate
- Lorie Slawsky, Digital Court Reporter
- Pablo Tapia, Trial Court Law Clerk
- Michael Bartley, Help Desk Manager
- Sheree Carter, Court Program Specialist
- Les'Unique Hessing, Court Program Specialist
- Lourdes Mejia, Court Program Specialist
- Marissa Espino, Secretary

