

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2019 | VOLUME 2019 - 4

CHIEF JUDGE MARX RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED JURIST AWARD

On Thursday, October 10, 2019, the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL), Palm Beach County, awarded Chief Judge Marx the Distinguished Jurist Award at the Justice Barbara Pariente Awards Reception. The Chief Judge was recognized by FAWL for her long history of providing justice to the citizens of Palm Beach County; for her leadership skills; for her dedication to the improvement of the legal system; and for her statewide contributions as the Chair of the Judicial Qualifications Commission and as a faculty member of the judicial colleges.



Chief Judge Marx (bottom row, second from right) along with members of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers at the Justice Barbara Pariente Awards Reception

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AWARDS & HONORS

Employee Recognition Award Winners



Award recipient Brenda Gleason (center) with Judge Small (left) and Chief Judge Marx (right)

On Tuesday, October 22nd, Chief Judge Marx announced the Employee Recognition Award winners for the third quarter of 2019.

Congratulations to all those nominated for each category including for **Judicial Assistants:** Jennifer Bernier, Brenda Gleason, and Stefanie Lee as well as for **Court Administration:** Susannah Clancy, Erika Ireland, Rhoda Jones, Diane Kahn, Rafal Krzemien, Sean Logsdon, Shawya McDonald, and Daniel Svec.

Brenda Gleason was named the Judicial Assistant of the Quarter, and **Diane Kahn** was named the Court Administration Employee of the Quarter. The winners received a paid Administrative Leave day; a plaque; a month of parking in the judicial parking garage; the Circuit's Perpetual Trophy; an official Circuit tumbler; and a photo in the Circuit Courier.

Congratulations to our winners, nominees, and of course to all who work hard every day throughout the Circuit.

For more information on how you can nominate a Judicial Assistant or Court Staff for Employee of the Quarter, please visit the following hyperlink:

<http://151.132.36.247/nominations/>.



Award recipient Diane Kahn (center) with Tehera Smith (left) and Chief Judge Marx

AROUND THE COURTHOUSE

Training for Court Staff

On October 3 and 4, 2019, the Circuit held a two-day training for administrative assistants and case managers. The training was developed and coordinated by Maxine Williams, Administrative Magistrate. Presenters included the Hon. Bradley Harper; the Hon. Scott Bernstein; April Bristow, General Counsel; Gigi Jones, Court Software Training Specialist; and Christina Maldonado, Mediator.

The topics addressed with the participants covered issues vital to work with the courts, including: ethics; the Rules of Judicial Administration, implicit bias; purposes of the courts; drafting orders; managing e-mails; and mindfulness to manage stress.



Judge Harper leads a session on managing emails.

Veteran's Court Graduation



Judge Booras (top row, right) with VA Court graduates.

The Hon. Ted Booras presided over a Veterans' Court (VA Court) graduation on December 16, 2019. Nine VA Court participants successfully graduated from the program. The program's team approach includes the assignment of a mentor to each participant. The mentor is tasked with assisting the participant with life challenges. The VA Court celebrated its nine-year anniversary in November. Judge Booras has presided over the VA Court since its inception.

Adoption Day



At bench, left to right: Judge Bell, Judge Kroll, Chief Judge Marx, Judge Artau, and Judge Delgado.

On November 22, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit celebrated National Adoption Day with adoptions and events for the children and families. A total of 19 children were adopted. For entertainment, the children could visit a face painter, a cartoon artist, and a balloon artist. Lunch was provided to the attendees.

Chief Judge Marx welcomed the attendees. Judges Kroll, Keyser, Bell, Artau, and Delgado presided over the adoptions.

Thanks for Giving Dessert Party

The Circuit Directors held the annual “Thanks for Giving” dessert party for Judicial Assistants (JAs) and Court staff on November 21. The Directors contributed and served a variety of desserts including pies and homemade specialties to the JAs and court staff as a way to thank everyone for their contributions to the Circuit. The annual dessert party is part of the Circuit’s annual food drive. Approximately two hundred pounds of food were collected from the Circuit Judges, JAs, and staff for donation to a local food drive, “Food For Families.”

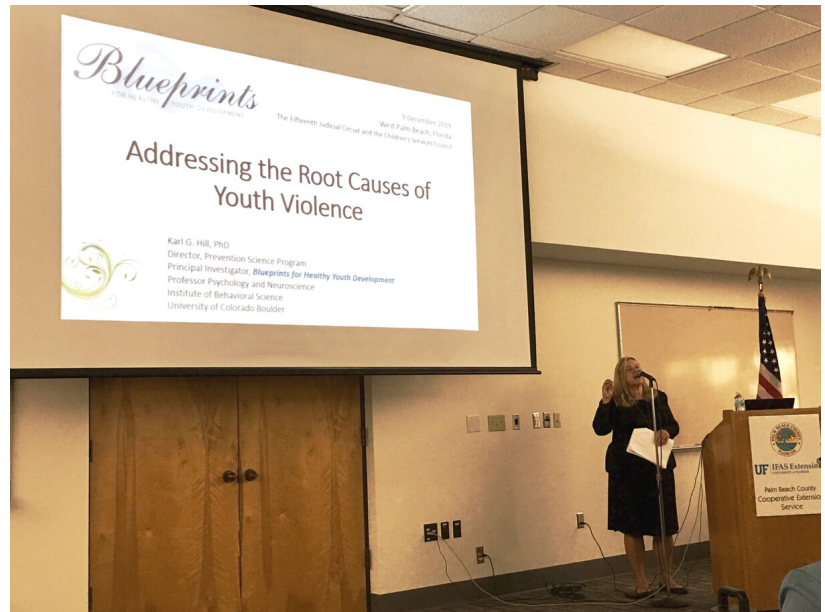


Directors serve Court Administration staff and Judicial Assistants. **Left to Right:** Tammy Anton, Stefanie Thomas, Debra Oats, Melissa Sotillo, Barbara Dawicke, Danni Hoefling, Cristy Altaro, Mary Quinlan, Tara Kranz, April Bristow

Youth Violence Training

On December 9th, Court Administration and the Children's Services Council hosted a community training session entitled: "Addressing the Root Causes of Youth Violence: Community-Based Implementation of Evidence-Based Interventions". The workshop was open to the Judiciary, court personnel, law enforcement and all community partners working with youth in the juvenile court system. The presenter was Dr. Karl Hill, a leading authority on youth development and community interventions to break intergenerational cycles of problem behavior.

Dr. Hill is a professor at the University of Colorado Boulder and the Director of the Problem Behavior and Positive Youth Development Program. A special thank you to Judge Kroll for bringing this session to Palm Beach County.



Above: Judge Kroll gives an introduction



Above: Dr. Karl Hill presents on the causes of youth violence

Pro Bono Ceremony

The inaugural Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Awards ceremony took place on November 7. The purpose of the event was to recognize attorneys who provide pro bono legal services.

Attorneys who donated between 20-49 hours of legal services in 2018 received a bronze pin; those who donated between 50-99 received a silver pin; while those attorneys who donated over 100 hours received a gold pin.

Over 100 attendees were present for the event, including retired Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente and Florida Bar President John Stewart, who both spoke about the importance of pro bono work and also pinned the award winners.

This event was held by the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee in partnership with the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County. Sponsors included The Palm Beach County Bar Association, the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association, The Palm Beach County Justice Association, the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, the Malcolm Cunningham Bar Association, the South Palm Beach County Bar Association, the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, and the Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association.

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit appreciates the attorneys who generously provide pro bono services to those in need.



Left to Right: Judge Feuer, Chief Judge Marx, Supreme Court Justice Pariente, Florida Bar President John Stewart, and Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division President Santo DiGangi.

Visit by Palm Beach School for Autism

Students from the Palm Beach School for Autism visited Judge Rowe on October 24. Judge Rowe and court staff discussed their specific roles and duties as part of the judiciary and the state courts system. Included in the visit was the ever popular K-9 demonstration, provided by PBSO.



Pictured Left, Top Row: Aston Willis, Judge Rowe, Sherrie Norton, with **2nd row, from left:** George Clause, John Abdallah, Fred Fulmer, Kathryn Lehman, and students and staff from the School for Autism, teachers, and other Court Personnel, Charles Scott on far right

New Attorney Breakfast

The Annual New Attorney Breakfast was hosted by General Counsel, April Bristow, on October 31. The attendees were welcomed to the event by the Chief Judge. The annual breakfast is free and open to attorneys who have just relocated to Palm Beach County or who are recent members of the Florida Bar. The event is attended by judges, magistrates, and more senior attorneys. It provides an educational opportunity for new attorneys to obtain more information on the Circuit and Circuit procedures; meet members of the judiciary; explore membership with local voluntary bar associations; and network.

Pictured Right: A panel of local attorneys and judges spoke to answer questions.

Left to right: Scott Perry, Leslie Arsenault Metz, Santo DiGangi, Michelle Suskauer, Judge Harper, Judge Rowe, Judge Bell, and Judge Gerber (4th DCA)



Family Drug Court



Above: A child is comforted by a therapy dog during a courtroom visit

The Caring Canines Therapy Dog Program has expanded their services to the Family Drug Court. The therapy dogs provide comfort to individuals involved in court proceedings.

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's Family Drug Court Program is a voluntary court program designed to help substance abusing parents work towards a goal of reunification with their child or children. The Program was recently awarded federal funds through the Office of the State Courts Administrator and the Trial Court Budget Commission. The funds will provide enhancement to the services offered to the Family Drug Court Program participants. Recently, two participants successfully graduated from the Program. Individuals who graduated from the Program recently provided their perspectives as graduates and newly sober individuals at the annual luncheon held by the nonprofit Drug Court supporter, Making Every Day Count, Inc.

Caring Canines Appreciation Event

The Caring Canines volunteer teams, i.e., handlers and dogs, attended a Circuit sponsored appreciation event on December 17. Court staff recognized and thanked the teams (and dogs) for the hours of service that they provided as volunteers in 2019. The event included snacks, games, and a video montage that highlighted the work of the teams.



Above: Carine Canines and volunteers at the annual appreciation event.

West County Courthouse Holiday Party

On December 13, stakeholders at the West County Courthouse in Belle Glade celebrated the holidays with a potluck party. Celebrating were members of the Office of the Clerk and Comptroller, the Office of the Public Defender, the Office of the State Attorney, and the Office of Regional Conflict Counsel. Also in attendance were members of Facilities Management, volunteer mediators, Professional Probation Services, the Department of Corrections, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Court Administration IT, Court Recording, private attorneys, traffic magistrates, Family Court case managers, Judge Sherri Collins and Judicial Assistant Sandra Becerra.



Pictured Left: A large number of attendees gathered for a holiday party at the West County courthouse

Court Administration Holiday Lunch

On December 13, Court Administration sponsored a potluck holiday luncheon, open to all judges, judicial assistants, and court staff of the Circuit. The annual popular event was well attended with plenty of food to share. "DJ Crutch", a/k/a William Hutchings, kept the event lively with commentary and music. Some attendees walked away with prizes from the Court raffle. **Mark your calendars, the event will be held on December 11 in 2020.**

Pictured Right: Kim Massengill, Marianna Contreras, Carey Helmes, and Andrea Morris



Magistrate Damary Stokes

A swearing-in ceremony and welcome reception was held on November 22 for the Circuit's newest Magistrate, Damary Stokes. Family, friends, and colleagues gathered to welcome her to the Circuit and celebrate her new role.

Magistrate Stokes earned her juris doctorate from Nova Southeastern University. Previous to her work as a Magistrate, her employment was varied: a sole practitioner of family law; an insurance law attorney; and at the beginning of her career she worked as a judicial assistant at the Eleventh Circuit and an administrative assistant at the Seventeenth Circuit.

Magistrate Stokes is currently assigned to family and mental health cases in the Main Judicial Courthouse.



Above: Magistrate Stokes speaks at her swearing-in ceremony

Welcome New Employees

Welcome to all new employees of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Court staff who began their employment with the Circuit between October and December 2019 include:

- Tierra McClendon, Intern - Juvenile
- Michael Bartley, Help Desk Manager
- Damary Stokes, Magistrate
- Pablo Tapia, Trial Court Law Clerk
- Lorie Slawsky, Digital Court Reporter
- Marsha McClendon, Judicial Assistant
- Hrushi Moparthy, Systems Administrator II
- Shirley Harris, Probate Case Manager
- Martinique Sanders, Family Court Case Manager
- Elyssa S. Lane, Trial Court Law Clerk
- Susana Hoyos Cuervo, Magistrate Assistant

LUNCH AND LEARN

Benefits and Insurance for State Employees



Sam Spaulding

Sam Spaulding, Financial Advisor for Capital Insurance, presented at a Lunch-and-Learn for circuit employees. During his seminar, he provided an overview of the investment and pension plans; discussed retirement age; and provided a review of the deferred compensation plan.

Miss a Lunch and Learn?

Extra materials and information may be available. Please contact HR staff.

Scholar Career Coaching



Lynne W. Gassant and Dr. Eddie Ruiz present on Scholar Career Coaching, Inc.

On November 12, 2019, Lynne W. Gassant and Dr. Eddie Ruiz presented a Lunch & Learn to Court Administration employees titled "Scholar Career Coaching." Established in 2012, Scholar Career Coaching is a non-profit mentoring & scholarship program that provides college and career services to South Florida high school college-bound students, with a focus on ESL (English as a Second Language) students. This program is looking for professionals to serve as mentors and volunteer a few hours a month at Atlantic High School and/or Boynton Beach High School. If you are interested, please feel free to contact William Hutchings for more information.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Joi Lasnick, HR Coordinator/ADA Assistant

Joi Lasnick, Human Resources (HR) Coordinator and ADA Assistant began her employment with the Circuit in March 2017. In her role as HR Coordinator, she assists the office with recruitment, coordinating interviews, and the organization of HR documents. Joi also assists with the monthly Lunch-and-Learns and other Circuit events such as the annual holiday lunch. Joi is a talented artist who designs and creates informational flyers for the numerous Circuit programs.

As ADA Assistant, Joi arranges accommodations for individuals with disabilities who must attend court events. Providing the necessary accommodations can include a referral to Palm Tran, arranging a sign language interpreter, or ensuring that a litigant has access to a listening device.

Joi has expressed that she loves her job and that she works with a wonderful and supportive team. She stated that the only downside of her duties is when she is unable to assist with an ADA request because of, for example, too short of notice as it is her goal to assist those who have an ADA need.

Joi holds a BFA in Advertising Design. Prior to joining the Circuit she worked as an art director. She paints during her free time using different mediums including watercolors and acrylics.



Joi Lasnick, with her dog

TECH TIPS

AUTOCORRECT: AN AUTOMATIC TIME-SAVER



How quickly and correctly can you type “Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pickles Peppers?”

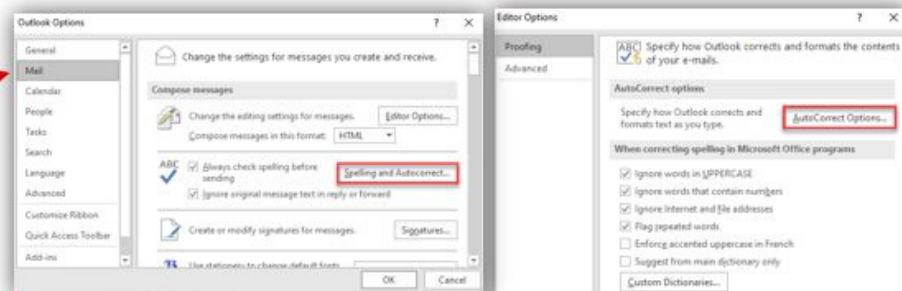
Do you always misspell certain words like, “judgement”, “aquire”, “wierd” or “acheive?” With **Autocorrect**, you’ll never make the same typos again!

Autocorrect automatically corrects your misspelled words and allows you to replace custom abbreviations with words or phrases. For example, instead of typing “uniform motion calendar” typing “umc” automatically inserts “uniform motion calendar.”

Autocorrect works the same way in Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote!

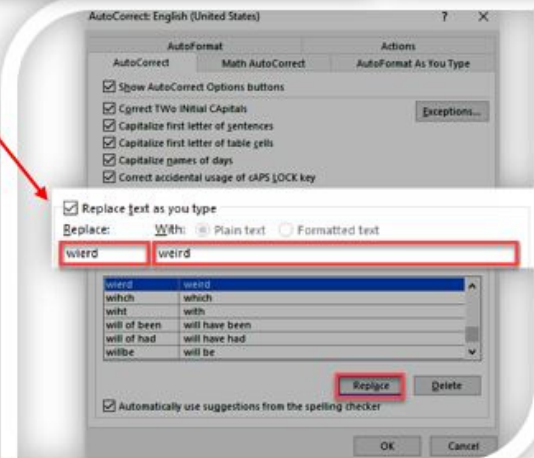
Here’s how it works in Outlook:

1. Select **File – Options – Mail - Spelling and Autocorrect**
2. Select **AutoCorrect Options**.
3. Type the misspelled word (wierd) in the “replace” box and the correct spelling (weird) in the “With” box. Select replace and OK.
4. How fast can you type “Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pickles Peppers?” When you replace this phrase with “ppppppp” then the answer is instantly!



Here’s how it works in Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote:

1. Select **File – Options - Proofing**
2. Select **AutoCorrect Options**
3. Type the misspelled word in the “replace” box and the correct spelling in the “With” box. Select replace and OK.
4. Try it! Which word will you autocorrect today?



“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.

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



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ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS

Administrative orders amended from October 1st, 2019 to December 31st, 2019 include:

A.O. 11.104, 10/11/2019: Seniority Listing of Judges

A.O. 10.401, 11/21/2019: Assignment of Civil Traffic Infractions

A.O. 11.106, 10/11/2019: Alternate Assignments

A.O. 10.401, 11/21/2019: Assignment of Civil Traffic Infractions

A.O. 11.203, 10/18/2019: Appointment of Magistrates (Amended)

A.O. 11.102, 11/25/2019: Administrative Judges and Executive Committee

A.O. 2.312, 10/28/2019: Electronic Filing of Documents

A.O. 11.106, 11/25/2019: Alternative Assignments

A.O. 11.101, 11/1/2019: Assignment of Judges

A.O. 11.104, 11/25/2019: Seniority Listing of Judges

A.O. 11.109, 11/13/2019: Duty Judge Roster

A.O. 2.315, 11/15/2019: Implementation of Uniform Case Reporting Case Status Reporting Requirements

For updates to the latest Administrative Orders (AOs) for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, visit our website at:
<https://www.15thcircuit.com/updated-administrative-orders>

A.O. 4.603, 11/21/2019: County Criminal Regions/Branch Courthouses

UPCOMING COURT HOLIDAYS

February 2020

17: President's Day - No Court Events

April 2020

10: Good Friday Holiday - Court Closed

May 2020

25: Memorial Day - Court Closed

