

CIRCUIT COURIER

NEWS BULLETIN OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
VOL. 2021-2, FEBRUARY - MARCH 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Jury Process During the Pandemic*
- Delinquency Drug Court News*
- Farewell to Beloved Case Manager*
- Veterans' Court Marks 10th Year*
- Criminal Case Manager Certified*

In this issue...

Jury Process During the Pandemic.....	3
Delinquency Drug Court News.....	5
Veterans' Court: 10th Anniversary.....	6
Farewell to a Beloved Case Manager.....	8
Criminal Case Manager Acquires Certification.....	8
Administrative Orders.....	9

News of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

February and March
2021



Cover Photo: Deputy Bill LaFlamme (Main Judicial Complex)

Above Photo: Linda Sims



**The Circuit Courier is
published by the Fifteenth
Judicial Circuit**

Krista Marx
Chief Judge

Barbara Dawicke
Trial Court Administrator

Jury Trial Process During the Pandemic

In January 2021, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit began holding jury trials after having to postpone all trials in March 2020 due to the pandemic. In re-starting jury trials, the Circuit strictly followed the Centers for Disease Control guidelines to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the potential jurors. Many of the steps taken by the Circuit can be found in the Chief Judge's video, posted on the Circuit's website, and in the Chief Judge's Administrative Orders

With the start of jury trials, as a safety measure, the Chief Judge directed that the number of jurors summonsed be reduced. Additionally, the summons sent to potential jurors included and continues to include health and safety related information. Persons who may have been exposed to COVID-19 are directed to file a postponement of their jury service and not appear.

For the first several weeks, once jury trials began again, citizens who did report for jury service were greeted by friendly Court Administration staff who ensured that everyone had a mask, followed social distancing guidelines and who posed questions to potential jurors related to international travel and any potential risk of exposure to COVID-19. Anyone who may have had contact with an infected person were asked to return home and set for a jury date in the future.

At the start of trials and continuing to date, upon entering the courthouse, potential jurors pass through a non-invasive temperature check. Inside the jury assembly room, seating is marked and arranged to ensure a six-foot separation between jurors. Courthouse elevators are marked and reserved for use by jurors, only, to reduce potential exposure to others in the courthouse. The courtrooms are outfitted with plexiglass, hand sanitizers, and social distancing is required. *(Cont'd. on next page)*



Chief Judge Krista Marx



Above and left: Judge Weiss presiding over a jury trial.

Jury Trial Process, cont'd.

Entry into the courthouses remains limited. Therefore, to accommodate members of the public who wish to observe jury proceedings, court technology staff created zoom links for each trial judge. The links are published on the Circuit's webpage. The judges, court staff, and clerks continue to be impressed with the positive and friendly attitude expressed by all of the citizens who appear for jury service.

From January 2021 to March 2021, the Circuit brought 35 jury trials to a verdict, starting first with a felony jury trial held before the Hon. Dahlia Weiss while the Hon. John Kastrenakes held the first circuit civil jury trial. By far, the greatest number of jury trials have been conducted by the county criminal judges. From January 2021 to April 1, 2021, a total of 17 county criminal jury trials have been presided over by Judges Collins, Eissey, Hanser, Harper, and Surber

Understandably, the number of jury trials conducted during the pandemic was greatly reduced from normal years. However, as Florida presses forward towards normalcy, the number of case resolved by jury trials has continued to climb.



Hon. Dahlia Weiss



Hon. John Kastrenakes

Welcome, New Employees

Darcey Knevelbaard

Judicial Assistant to Judge Carolyn Bell

Danielle Lyles

Judicial Assistant to Judge John Parnofiello

Macsson Etienne
Computer Specialist II

Kimia Bayat

Administrative Secretary II OPS, Mediation

Berwyn Holder
Administrative Services Manager

Jason Duran
Desktop Manager

Stephanie Boden

Court Program Specialist II, Family

Melissa Munoz
HR Coordinator

Mayoli Albor
Magistrate Assistant to Magistrate
James B. Williams, Jr.

Brandy Drury
Administrative Assistant I, Court Reporting

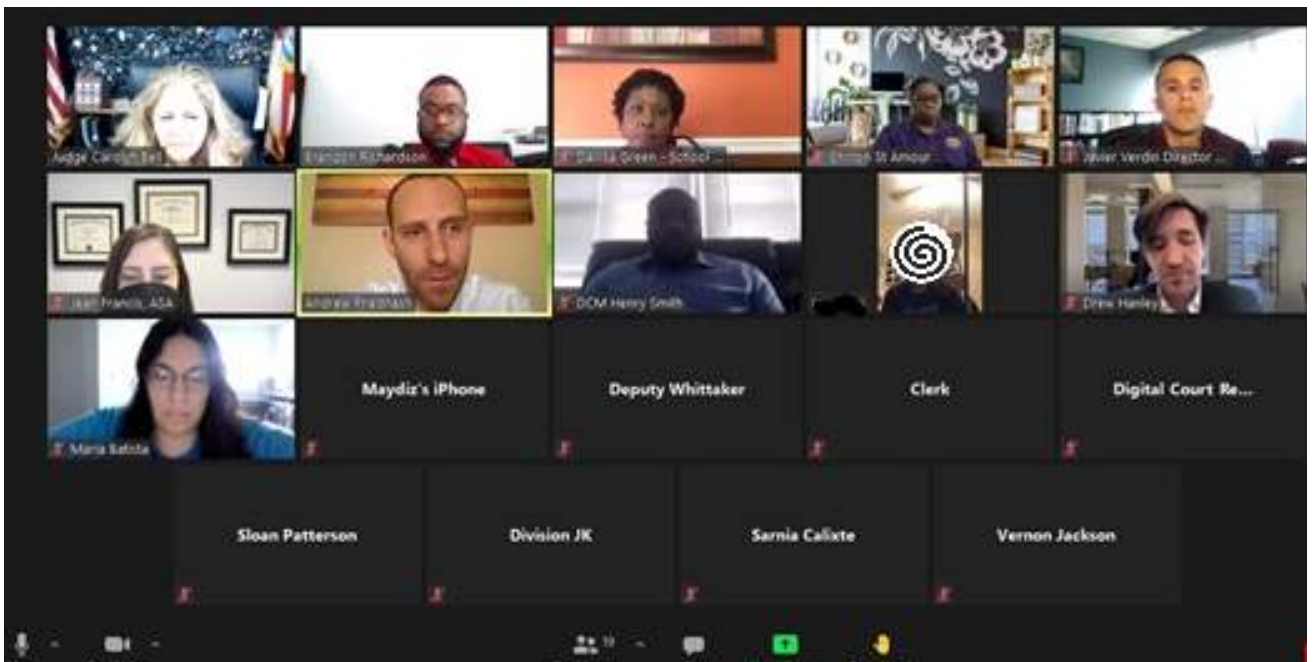
Mary Boning
Trial Court Staff Attorney

DELINQUENCY DRUG COURT

Delinquency Drug Court, often referred to as DDC, has maintained full operations despite the many challenges of COVID-19. The entire Drug Court team has worked collaboratively under the leadership of Judge Carolyn Bell to continue to hold staffings, hearings, and operational meetings via Zoom. Treatment services have also continued remotely.

On January 27, DDC celebrated the first graduation of the year. The graduating youth was successful in attending his treatment, court hearings, and educational services throughout his time in the program. The participant did not miss a single treatment session or drug test during the 6 months of participation while attending school and working part-time at a local restaurant. The graduation event was held via Zoom - the graduate, his family and Drug Court team were in attendance. He was presented with a certificate and earned a successful termination of juvenile probation.

Right:
Drug
Court in
(ZOOM)
Action.



Another accomplishment related to the program involves Delinquency Drug Court Coordinator, Brandon Richardson.

To complement his existing skill set and to better serve youth in the program, Brandon successfully earned his professional certification in "Trauma & Resilience: Level Two" through Florida State University. Congratulations to Brandon on this achievement.

Right: Brandon Richardson



Veterans' Court Marks A 10-Year Milestone

Congratulations to the Honorable Ted Booras and the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's Veterans' Court which marked its tenth anniversary.

A committee formed in 2010 by then-Chief Judge Peter Blanc, determined that a need existed for a veterans' docket. Judge Booras has presided over the docket since its inception and the program has enjoyed much success. The Court won a Davis Productivity Award in 2013 and has eliminated many "jail-bed days"-days which veterans would have otherwise spent incarcerated.

The Circuit Courier recently sat down with Judge Booras to find out more about this important program.

CC: *What types of problems does the Veterans' Court typically solve?*

Judge Booras: It assists with homelessness and employment but targets mental health and substance abuse issues.

CC: *Is there a particular case that stands out in your mind?*

Judge Booras: There was a young, pregnant lady charged with drugs and prostitution. She was estranged from her mother and had no relations with her family. With the VA's help and the Department of Corrections, she was able to get into a program for pregnant women and reestablish her relations with her family and her mother.

CC: *In ten years of Veterans' Court, what interesting thing have you learned?*

Judge Booras: The services of the VA and the severity of PTSD. I've come to appreciate it.

CC: *Is there a particular moment or memory that stands out for you?*

Judge Booras: Before Veterans' Court, I started getting pre-trial folks to verify that these individuals were veterans. Once, a young man came in with a defeated look on his face and with his head down. I decided to speak to him as a marine instructor and asked him 'What years were you in the Marine Corps?' He said 'What Marine Corps?' I said (raised voice) 'Were you in the Marine Corps?' His head went straight up at attention 'Sir, yes, sir!' I realized right then how to handle these veterans-be stern and show them respect. His entire life was turned around because I spoke in a stern voice and reminded him who he was.

CC: *What attracted you to take on this challenge?*

Judge Booras: I was working First Appearances and there were no services to veterans. The VA contacted Judge Blanc and said 'We have a service if you have a Judge.' Veterans are entitled to services that they don't even know about. We help them get the benefits.

CC: *What inspires you?*

Judge Booras: Watching veterans regain their pride. I see them climb the ladder and watch them get their pride back.



Hon. Ted Booras

(Continued on next page)

Veterans' Court Cont'd.

CC: *What was the biggest challenge you faced early in the program?*

Judge Booras: That was the hardest question! We didn't have any. The 'biggest challenges' were getting the cases into court. Veterans do better around other veterans and (as a veteran) when you let someone down that you don't know, it's a big deal.

CC: *What would you say to someone taking over for you in the future?*

Judge Booras: Treat veterans with respect, dignity and be stern. They will perform for you. They can smell fear!

CC: *What do you think other people should know about the Veterans' Court?*

Judge Booras: It is a resolution and treatment court. It's not a 'pass' on criminal activity. Nobody is there because they have to be there. It's more stringent because they have to see me! Also, the VA hospital is a full Baker Act facility and the Sheriff provides them transportation.

CC: *How did it feel after you finished your first case?*

Judge Booras: Like we actually accomplished something.

CC: *Is there anything else that you would like to share with us?*

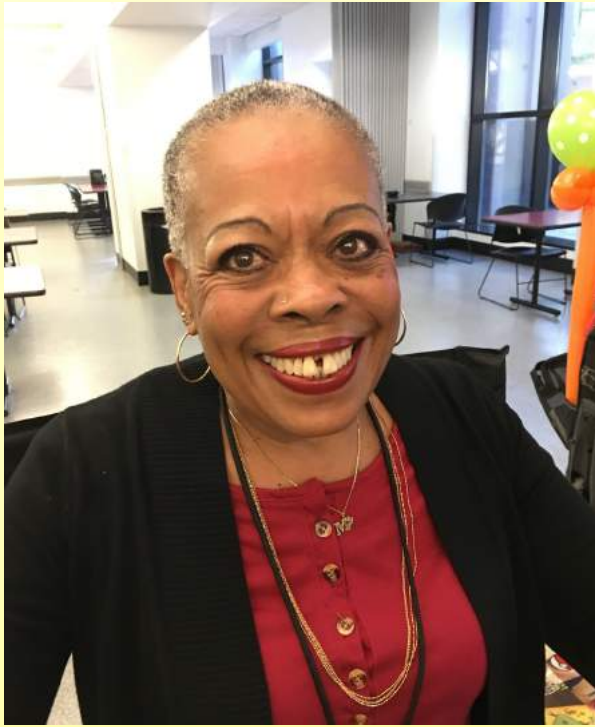
Judge Booras: I've never put myself on a pedestal and the world doesn't revolve around me!

Congratulations again to Judge Booras and the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's Veterans' Court.



Judge Booras and the Veterans' Court Team

Longtime Juvenile Employee Jacquie Marshburn Retires



Jacquie Marshburn

The time has come to say goodbye to a long-standing icon in the juvenile division. After almost 23 years, Jacquie Marshburn, “the Dog Lady”, made the decision to retire from her role as a Case Manager. Mrs. Marshburn has been part of the Circuit since before the inception of Unified Family Court and has been an integral part of the development and operations of various Juvenile court programs and initiatives. Most notably, she was the heart and soul of the Circuit’s Therapy Dog program, Caring Canines. Jacquie did it all - from recruitment of new volunteers, to conducting orientations and coordinating their schedules. She loved each and one of the volunteers and their dogs or, “angels”, as she referred to them.

Jacquie’s smile lit up a room and her caring, sweet nature will be missed by all, especially her colleagues. The entire Fifteenth Judicial Circuit wishes her the absolute best in her golden years with her husband and whole-heartedly thanks her for all of the years of dedicated service to the Court system, the children and families of Palm Beach County.

Criminal Case Manager Certified as Project Manager

Our congratulations go out to Tyrell Siagi, Criminal Case Manager. In April 2021, Tyrell received his Master’s in Business Administration from FAU with a focus on Operational Management. He recently became a certified Project Manager passing the Project Management Professional requirements in April, 2021. He completed this rigorous curriculum during his “free time” after work and on weekends.

Mr. Siagi has been employed with the Circuit since November of 2018. In his capacity as Criminal Case Manager, he works behind the scene, providing the judges and judicial assistants with information related to quarantined inmates, inmate release from State prison, screening for risk protection orders, destruction orders filed by law enforcement, and review of criminal cases pending in error. His supervisor, Michelle Cruz reports “Mr. Siagi is a diligent and professional employee. He is known for his outstanding commitment to completing work requests and his attention to detail.” The Circuit applauds Mr. Siagi for his most recent tremendous accomplishments.



Tyrell Siagi

Administrative Orders from February - March 2021

3/2021 6.301

In Re: Probate & Guardianship Division Compensation for Attorneys and Examining Committee Members

3/2021 2.311

In Re: Notices of Change of Address, Substitution/Withdrawal of Counsel, and Designation of Attorney of Record

3/2021 5.112

In Re: Confidentiality of Criminal History Checks Obtained by the Clerk Pursuant to Sections 68.07 (2) (a) and 744.3135, Florida Statutes

3/2021 12.604

In Re: Craig Calloway v State of Florida

3/2021 12.301

In Re: Order Temporarily Assigning The Honorable Ashley Zuckerman as an Acting Circuit Judge

3/2021 11.110

In Re: Appointment of Circuit Judges as Acting County Judges , County Judges as Acting Circuit Judges

3/2021 12.103

In Re: The Florida Bar vs Richard Edward Bosse

3/2021 7.201

In Re: Filing & Handling of Petitions for Extraordinary Writs in the Circuit Civil Court

3/2021 5.104

In Re: Appointment of Magistrates Unified Family Court Cases

3/2021 11.106

In Re: Alternate Assignments

2/2021 5.302

In Re: Redirection of Child Support Payments

2/2021 4.406

In Re: Restitution to Crime Victims in Non Probation and Non Prison Desposition for the purposes of Income Deduction Order

2/2021 4.101

In Re: Administrative Procedures in the Criminal Division

2/2021 3.606

In Re: County Civil Cover Sheet

2/2021 12.510

In Re: Mitigating Measures In Response to COVID-19

2/2021 12.102

In Re: The Florida Bar vs Sandra Coracelin