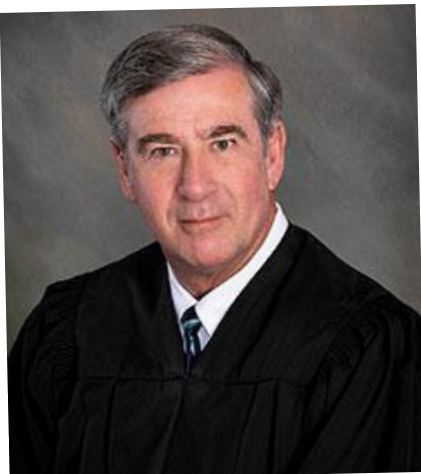


—THE—
15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
—OF FLORIDA—

CIRCUIT COURIER

JANUARY - MARCH 2023

Chief Judge Kelley Re-Elected as Chief Judge



We are pleased to announce that on Wednesday, February 15 at a Full Court meeting, the Judges of the Circuit re-elected Judge Glenn Kelley as Chief Judge for a second term. His second tenure as Chief begins on July 1, 2023 until June 30, 2025.

Prior to his initial term as Chief Judge, he served on both the Circuit Civil and Circuit Criminal bench.

In addition to his Chief Judge duties, he presides over Guardianship Contempt Hearings. He serves on the Florida Supreme Court Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC). Other appointments include the TCBC Executive Committee, Funding Methodology Committee, Personnel Committee, Statewide FTE Resource Management Policy Workgroup and the Judicial Management Council Workgroup on Court Technology Strategies. As of this year, he has also been asked to serve on the State Courts Legislative Delegation Committee.



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The 15th Circuit Welcomes Two New Judges

On Friday, January 6, the Honorable Caryn Siperstein was formally sworn in as a Circuit Judge with family, friends, the judiciary and court staff in attendance. Previously serving as a Senior Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Litigation Bureau in Palm Beach County, Siperstein is a graduate of Brandeis University and Brooklyn Law School. She also served as a Mediator with the 15th Circuit in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Division.

During the various speeches honoring Judge Siperstein, a common theme was her perseverance and work ethic. Her long-time friend Erica Tekel Lieberman said "she exemplifies what we want on the bench."

Judge Siperstein is assigned to the Family division.



On Friday, March 3, the Circuit celebrated the swearing-in of Honorable Stephanie Tew as a County Judge.

Judge Tew's previous experience includes serving as Chief Assistant Statewide Prosecutor for the Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution, an associate at the Law Firm of Cindy Goldstein and also as Assistant State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit.

Judge Tew is assigned to the County Civil division.



Circuit Events



On Friday, February 10, the Circuit held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newest nursing room located at the West County Courthouse, which was generously sponsored by the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers (FAWL).

Those in attendance included Chief Judge Kelley, Judges Feuer and Alijewicz, Court Administrator Barbara Dawicke, Belle Glade commissioners, former County Commissioner Melissa McKinley, court and clerk staff and Judicial Assistants.

A very special thank you to members of FAWL including President Adriana Lopez, President-elect Heather Stohlman, Katie Kiziah, and Co-Chairs of the Working Parents Committee Stephanie Myron and Stephanie Serafin for their work!



On Tuesday, February 28, the 15th Circuit Pro Bono Committee hosted its 3rd Annual Pro Bono Awards Ceremony and Ice Cream Social. The annual ceremony honors the attorneys who went above and beyond in providing pro bono legal services through the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County.

The 15th Circuit Pro Bono Committee is chaired by the Hon. Samantha Schosberg Feuer.



On Wednesday, March 22, the Juvenile division of the Circuit, held a Juvenile Drug Court graduation with the Hon. Parnofiello presiding. Many were in attendance to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of the graduate, including Judges Bell and Kroll.

When speaking of the graduate, a common theme was his diligence in following all guidelines and completing the program.

Honoring Members of the 15th Circuit

On Thursday, February 16, the Hon. Daliah Weiss received the Distinguished Jurist Award from the Palm Beach County chapter of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers (FAWL). The award recognizes an active Federal or State judge or magistrate who has an exceptional reputation for competency, efficiency, professionalism, and integrity and has demonstrated commitment to FAWL's mission of promoting gender equality and the advancement of women.

Congratulations Judge Weiss!



On February 21, the United States Supreme Court held the inaugural swearing in event for the Sheree Davis Cunningham Black Women's Law Association. Several Judges, Magistrates, and attorneys of the 15th Circuit were sworn in.

The organization is named after retired County Judge Sheree Davis Cunningham and its mission "is to provide mentoring, guidance, support to black women lawyers in the legal profession. The organization is established to help black women lawyers navigate the unique challenges they face in the practice of law, in their lives and in their communities."

Seated from **left to right**: Rosalyn Sia Baker Barnes; Hon. Cymonie Rowe; Hon. Maxine Cheesman; Retired Judge Sheree Davis Cunningham; Hon. Debra Moses Stephens; Retired Judge Ilona Maxine Holmes (17th circuit); Salesia Smith Gordon

Back row standing from **left to right**: Allison Smith; Rosalyn Destinie Baker Sutton; Gloretta Hall; Sandra Powery Moses; Gwen Tuggle; Geraldine Williams; Magistrate Maxine Williams; and Lisa Quarrie Duncan.



15th Circuit at the Bench Bar Conference

The 15th Circuit had great representation at this year's Bench Bar conference with judges, judicial assistants and court staff presenting.

Chief Judge Kelley gave the "State of the Courts" Address to over 500 attendees at the luncheon. Included in his presentation, was a display that illustrated the incredible work conducted by our Judges. Also during the luncheon, the Hon. James Nutt was awarded with the Judge Meenu T. Sasser Mentorship Award, which recognizes the importance and impact of mentoring young lawyers and colleagues.



Members of Court Technology participated in the Bench Bar conference by setting up a demonstration of newly purchased courtroom evidence presentation hardware. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and "kick the tires" on the new hardware. The hardware on display included the OWL 360 video cameras; the wireless Barco presentation devices, and the Hovercam, which provides a digital overhead projector and computer along with Telestration software to allow attorneys/witnesses to annotate documents or photographs.

Also, Chief Information Officer Noel Chessman led a panel of Court Technology personnel in a session titled "Court Technology: What's New & What's Next". Panelists included Senior Analyst Programmer Ramiro Vidal, Senior Programmer Ken Blanck, and Computer Specialist II Christina Chappa.

Each year, the Circuit donates the personnel and hardware to provide much of the technology for Bench Bar. This donation saves the Bar thousands annually.



Judges in the Community



On January 11, the Hon. Ted Booras presided over the Installation Ceremony for the Paralegal Association of Florida. He also provided an overview of Veteran's Court in which he has presided over since its inception in 2010.

On Thursday, March 30, the Hon. Bradley Harper served as the keynote speaker for the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Road to the Bench Academy Graduation.



On Friday, March 31, the Hon. Samantha Schosberg Feuer and Hon. Bradley Harper spoke to students of A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts for Ethical Governance Day. The Judges spoke about their career journeys, as well as the importance of staying engaged in local government.

Members of the Circuit Attend Annual Prison Tour

March 29-30, Circuit Judge Joseph Curley, Circuit Judge Jeffrey D. Gillen, Chief Information Officer Noel Chessman, and law clerk Kelly Rowley were among the 24 participants selected to attend the annual Judge Marvin Mounts Prison Tour. The tour, which is coordinated annually by the Hon. Jonathan Gerber, Fourth DCA and retired Circuit Judge Moses Baker, takes participants on a behind the scenes tour of the major Florida prisons. The tour seeks to help members of the criminal justice system to see firsthand what happens "after" sentencing.

Each facility's warden and key personnel served as tour escorts to the group and answered questions throughout the tour. Participants were encouraged to talk to the prisoners both in their cells and working on the grounds or in vocational training shops.

Highlights of the tour include visiting the vocational programs, where prisoners were receiving training in such marketable skills as furniture manufacturing and cosmetology. Additionally, prisoners were learning to write braille textbooks. Florida prisons provide all Florida's braille textbooks, as well as Sunpass toll validation and all license plates used in the state of Florida.

Additional participants included members of the office of the Public Defender, State Attorney, Department of Corrections and members of the Palm Beach County Bar.

Transportation by charter bus was provided by PBC Criminal Justice Commission.

Warden Shellie Baker (Central Florida Reception Center) and Warden Tifani Knox (Putnam Correctional Institution) accompanied the participants on the bus .

Visited facilities include:

Loxahatchee Road Prison

Lake Correctional Institution

Sumter Correctional Institution

Lowell Correctional Institution (Florida's first women's prison)

Florida Men's Reception and Medical Center (intake for all prisoners for central Florida)

Union Correctional Institution (where death row is located)

Florida State Prison (where the execution chamber is located)

"The trip was very impactful. I have a tremendous appreciation for the work and commitment made by the Department of Corrections. Everyone, from the prisoners to the warden was very informative. I would recommend this trip to all judges and court personnel," said Noel Chessman.



Human Resources Programs & Activities Recap

New Employee Orientation - February 10

The Circuit held its first in-person new employee orientation in over two years. Seventeen employees attended the training. The employees were introduced to the Mission and Vision of the Court, the Circuit's Core Competencies, the Judicial Branch, and their role in the Circuit as Court Administration staff. Going forward, the new employee orientation session will be held quarterly. The 4-hour session includes a short tour of Circuit Departments.



Emergency & Safety Training Sessions

Court Administration employee, Melissa Sotillo, Director of Administrative Services, along with PBSO Deputy Ronald Cohen, and the Circuit's Human Resources staff, have a goal of ensuring that all Judges and court staff understand the Circuit safety protocols and evacuation routes. To that end, the Security Committee is providing safety trainings to all court staff and Judicial Assistants in all five courthouses. Judges are invited to attend. Training topics include action to take in the event of an active shooter, emergency evacuation procedures, emergency staging sites, and an Automated External Defibrillator demonstration. Several trainings were held in February and March. Training dates for the 2023 Summer have not yet been announced.



Human Resources Programs & Activities Recaps Continued



JA In-Service Training

On March 10, the Circuit provided an in-service training to interested Judicial Assistants (“JAs”). The training was organized by the Human Resources Department; Kim Wolf, JA to Chief Judge Kelley; and Marianna Contreras, JA to Judge Scher. Along with the organizers, Court Administration staff presented on information pertinent to JAs such as how to obtain a court interpreter, best practices of court reporters, how to request work items from Court Finance, and use of the State Travel system.

Lunch & Learn



On Monday, March 20, Paulina Pasquerelli, the Circuit's Mental Health Case Manager, presented to staff on Email Etiquette. Paulina informed us of the dos and don'ts to be aware of when communicating via email.

Previous Lunch & Learn programs included:

January 2023: Budgeting & Creating a Plan, Presented by Naomi Joseph, Financial Wellness Consultant with PNC Bank.

February 2023: Deferred Compensation, Presented by Stacey Sherbinsky, VOYA Representative

New Hires | Employees On the Move | Retirements

Welcome to the Circuit's newest employees:

January 2023

Hon. Caryn Siperstein, Circuit Judge

Lisa Weiss, Trial Court Staff Attorney

Lori Valuntas, Judicial Assistant to Judge Tew

February 2023

Amy McColman, Civil Court Case Manager

Kerby Pierre, Computer Specialist II

Joan Solis, Magistrate Assistant II to Magistrate Fanelli

Lily Valle, Judicial Assistant to Judge Parnofiello

Mary McLean, Computer Specialist II

March 2023

Richalyn Miller, Public Information Officer

Kenthia White, Judicial Assistant to Judge Coates

Mikhail Nikitin, Family Court Case Manager

Nicholas Smith, Judicial Assistant to Judge Weiss

Kathy Evans, Senior Programmer

Dylita Maharaj, Family Court Case Manager

Diane Wilson Miller, Manager Law Library

Employees hired into a new position/position reclassified:

January 2023

Violeta Woxberg, Judicial Assistant to Judge Siperstein

Sterling Mart, Trial Court Staff Attorney

February 2023

Paul Goldstein, Civil Court Case Manager

Sean Thomas, Trial Court Staff Attorney

Julio Marquez Cancine, Civil Court Case Manager

March 2023

Megan Lasnick, Criminal Court Case Manager

Melissa Sotillo, Director of Administrative Services

Retirements

February 2023

Magistrate Thomas Baker

March 2023

Gloria Lozano, Judicial Assistant to Judge Weiss

Employee Spotlight: Monique Harris



Here at the Fifteenth Circuit, we welcome and encourage new and exciting ideas that will enhance the culture and work experience for all. Judicial Assistant Monique Harris has done just that.

This spring, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit is launching a Health & Wellness program. The program will include walks, fun runs, health screenings, nutrition information, mental health resources and other programming. This was the brainchild of Monique Harris, who was an active participant of a similar wellness program when she worked at the Palm Beach County Clerk's Office.

"Monique had the brilliant idea to bring a Wellness program to our Circuit to help enrich the quality of life and health for the employees of our Circuit. A small committee consisting of judges and court staff banded together to discuss implementing this committee and its important goals.

The Hon. Maxine Cheesman and Hon. Samantha Feuer had this to say about Monique: "Monique is a person who thinks outside the box, loves to problem solve and constantly looks for ways to enhance the quality of life at work. Way to go Monique!"

Stay tuned for announcements on upcoming wellness events and programming.

Administrative Orders

The following AOs were updated or created January - March 2023 (most recent to oldest):

03-16-2023

AO 4.911

Misdemeanor Competency Division "T2"

AO 5.805

Truancy Court

03-02-2023

AO 11.110

Appointment of Circuit Judges as Acting County Judges; Appointment of County Judges As Acting Circuit Judges

AO 11.106

Alternate Assignments

03-01-2023

AO 11.203

Appointment of Magistrates

02-28-2023

AO 2.503

Court Reporting Services

AO 4.905

Palm Beach County Veterans' Docket and Creation of "VA" Division

02-24-2023

AO 5.104

UFC Magistrates

02-23-2023

AO 12.708

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY MAGISTRATES

01-31-2023

AO 11.109

Duty Judge Roster

01-25-2023

AO 2.303

Sealing Court Hearings and Records

01-17-2023

AO 11.101

Assignment of Judges



THE
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The Circuit Courier is published by the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

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Barbara Dawicke, Trial Court Administrator
Richalyn Miller, Public Information Officer

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