



The Circuit Times

Newsletter of Twentieth Judicial Circuit

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Chief Judge Cary to Continue as Chief for the Circuit

by Rick Callanan

I am pleased to announce that Chief Judge Cary will serve a second, two-year term effective July 1, 2009. Judge Cary has served as the Chief Judge of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit since his election to the position in 2007.

Over the last two years the Twentieth has weathered many financial storms. During this time Chief Judge Cary's leadership has kept the courts on track by evaluating our processes and services so that we can adjust as the demands on the courts change. Despite budget cuts we managed to maintain services and in many instances improved them through innovation and determination.

We are faced with many financial challenges still, but our mission is the same. The courts have been responsive to increased case filings and budget reductions and we will continue to anticipate issues and be proactive in our efforts.

Chief Judge Cary is committed to maintaining the independence, integrity and professionalism of the courts as he begins his next term. The Twentieth is very fortunate to have him at the helm again.

Lee and Collier Counties Host Investitures, Hendry County Receives New Circuit Judge

The past few months have been a time of change in the Judiciary. Three judges held their investitures and another was appointed to the circuit bench after having served on the county bench for three years.



Lt. Governor Kottkamp administers the oath to Judge Alane Laboda (above) and to Judge Archie B. Hayward (right).



In Lee County Circuit Judge Alane Laboda hosted her investiture on January 23, 2009. She was appointed to the bench on September 1, 2008. Judge Laboda was sworn in by Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp and enrobed by children in the Laboda Family.

On February 27, 2009, also in Lee County, County Judge Archie B. Hayward Jr. held his investiture. Lt. Governor Kottkamp administered the oath to him in a ceremony that took place in the Old Lee County Courthouse. Judge Hayward was appointed on August 12, 2008.

Collier County officially welcomed two new county bench judges in 2009. Judge Janeice Martin ran for for the position unopposed in 2008 and replaced Judge Christine Greider. Judge Martin was invested on January 30, 2009 at the Collier County Courthouse. The oath was administered by her father, Circuit Judge Lawrence D. Martin. Judge Michael Provost held his investiture on March 13,



Chief Judge G. Keith Cary

2009. Judge Provost was appointed on December 11, 2008 by Governor Charlie Crist. He brings to the bench almost 25 years of experience as an Assistant State Attorney, serving the last twelve years as a felony division supervisor. Judge Provost was sworn in on March 13, 2009 at the Collier County Courthouse.

Former Collier County Judge, Christine Gredier, was appointed to the circuit bench in late 2008. In January 2009 Judge Greider took the Hendry/Glades Circuit Bench. After just a few short weeks, Judge Greider committed to stay in Hendry/Glades Counties indefinitely. This will provide much needed stability to the Hendry/Glades dockets.



*Above:
Judge Janeice Martin, Collier County, is sworn in by her father, Judge Lawrence D. Martin.*

*Below:
Judge Michael Provost, Collier County, is sworn in by Judge Hugh D. Hayes.*



◆ Lee County

Pay Or Appear Program Pays Off

Rita Heckler, Lee County Clerk's Office

The Pay or Appear Program began in 2002 as a two-year pilot program funded by a grant from the Florida Bar Association. An Oversight Committee guided the program during its initial development. Members included CPAs, mental health professionals, a county commissioner, court personnel, and AFLP and AFCC members. The program was so successful the funding was extended for another year, after which, the Clerk's Office and Lee County continued support of the program.

The goals of the program are to maximize child support collection with minimal judicial time, effect behavior modification of payers, avoid public assistance, provide job opportunity information and enrich children's relationship with parents due to reduced conflict.

The most noteworthy results of the POA program have been a significant reduction in court time and an increase in delinquent support payments.

Cases are eligible for this program if there is a Lee County order of support, the payer lives in Lee County, the State DOR agency is not involved and the delinquency is greater than thirty days. The payer is served with an order to participate, along with information about the requirements of the program. Payments are due on Wednesday of each week. Failure to make a timely payment requires a court appearance on Friday of that same week. Non-payment, non-appearance or appearance without reasonable explanation usually results in a Writ of Bodily Attachment. The purge amount (amount needed to be released) is normally set at the weekly obligation. By the end of 2008 the Pay or Appear Program collected \$1,830,823.33 through the Clerk's Office, \$304,071.27 of this was collected in court. The average monthly total collected was

\$35,208.14. The percent of monthly support collected varies from month-to-month between 87% to 94%. Since the program's inception over \$5,000,000 has been collected.

Deputy Criminal Justice Director New Member to FACC Board

Jeff Nichols, Deputy Criminal Justice Director in Lee County has been invited to sit on the board of the Florida Association of Community Corrections (FACC). He is the third Court Administration employee to be extended this offer. Collier County Probation Director Chuck Rice and Collier County Administrative Services Manager Mark Middlebrook have been members of the FACC and board members for some ten or so years.



Jeff Nichols, Deputy Director, Criminal Division, Lee County

Mr. Nichols has been a member of the FACC for years, but feels "especially honored" that he has been named to the board and is "excited about having a closer association with such a fine group."

FACC was established in 1992 with the idea of bringing together various county, state and federal probation programs, diversion programs, pre-trial services, substance abuse treatment programs, sheriff's department and others to develop and promote programs. The association provides training, builds greater public awareness and encourages the agencies to work together to initiate and support legislation that reduces or prevents criminal or delinquent behavior.

◆ Charlotte County



John Burns, Charlotte County State Attorney's Office presents at **Court 101** training.

20th Circuit Presents Court Education

Sherry Munroe, Pretrial Supervisor

On October 30th, 2008, *Court 101: A Layman's Introduction to Legal Proceedings*; an overview of the court system from arrest to disposition was presented to mental health personnel and members of the Criminal Justice/Behavioral Health Advisory Council by members of the 20th Judicial Circuit including: The Administrative Office of the Courts, State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, and C.A.R.E. The training discussed court terminology, types of court appearances, roles of the different court offices, diversion programs, sentencing, probation, incompetency, victim's rights and pre-trial services.

Charlotte County's Criminal Justice/Behavioral Health Advisory Council was formed as part of the Florida Reinvestment Grant. The Advisory Council is a community collaboration between Behavioral Health, Criminal Justice, and Court systems with the intent to develop a sustainable system in which individuals with mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders are diverted into treatment rather than incarcerated. The goal is to streamline communication between the systems involved as well as educate professionals and the community on the benefits of treatment over incarceration.

Above left, training team presenters (L-R): Laurel Davison, Public Defender's Office; Jon Embury, Administrative Services Manager; Sherry Munroe, Pretrial Services Supervisor; John Burns, State Attorney's Office; Katie Shaw, State Attorney's Office; Marsha Baker, C.A.R.E.

◆ Glades County

Courthouse Renovations Completed

Glades County has finished renovations to its historic county courthouse in Moore Haven. Renovations began a couple years ago to refurbish the old courtroom while incorporating the technology needed to operate today's courtrooms. Also included in the plan was to refurbish the facade of the courthouse which over the years had succumbed to the elements resulting in chipped and peeling paint and run down stairs and sidewalks.

The outside of the courthouse is now complete. New windows, repairs and fresh paint have returned the courthouse to its southern charm. New sidewalks, flowers and grass, and an impressive fountain greet the public as they approach the courthouse.



Glades County Courthouse after external renovations: Fountain was added to the walkway, along with benches, a flower bed at the base of the stairs and lighting. Also, sod was added to create 3 lawns separated by converging sidewalks at the fountain.

◆ Collier County

Reality Journey Multi-Agency Effort

Chuck Rice, Criminal Division Director

A core group of individuals who volunteer every year from the Collier Bar, State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Emergency Medical Services, Collier County Sheriff's Office, East Naples Fire Department and Collier County Probation completed another successful *Reality Journey* in October 2008. For the past eight years the Collier County Public Schools have collaborated with several public service sponsors to present the *Reality Journey of Collier County*. The purpose of the *Reality Journey* is to impress upon young people the potentially devastating consequences of choosing to use drugs and alcohol. It is a dramatic re-enactment of an underage drinking party that leads to a fatal drunk-driving crash. The consequences are included as the unfortunate aftermath unfolds. Medical, legal, parental responsibility, impact on victims and life-long issues are presented. The *Reality Journey* is emotionally gripping, just like the realities of poor decision-making in real life.

Planning for the *Reality Journey* starts the end of August and the event is always held in conjunction with red ribbon week towards the end of October. Chuck Rice and Mark Middlebrook (Administrative Services Manager) volunteer and support this initiative every year.

Judge Christine Greider Runs Half Marathon, Drug Court Participants Volunteer

Circuit Judge Christine Greider has presided over the Collier County Adult Felony Drug Court since August 2006. She is very passionate about it and is invested in the outcome of every drug court participant. Sometimes it is the harsh warning of a judge that is needed to keep individuals on track; other times it is the support and encouragement of someone who cares about their success. Judge Greider delivers both.

On January 18, 2009 the support and encouragement were reciprocated at the Naples Daily News Half Marathon in which Judge Greider ran. Two years ago participants in the Drug Court Program volunteered along with Judge Greider at the event (a key component to the drug court philosophy is giving back to the community). Volunteers pass out food and water and and put medals around the necks of racers when they cross the finish line.

This time around, Judge Greider upped the ante and actually ran the race. Approximately 40 members of drug court cheered for her as she approached the finish line.



Circuit Judge
Christine Greider

Judge Greider feels that it is important for these individuals to be around healthy people, to feel the influence of a healthy lifestyle and be inspired. Judge Greider will return next year to run once again, and, perhaps she will be accompanied by those who cheered her on this year.

The bond between this judge and her Drug Court is strong. In January, Judge Greider was assigned to Hendry and Glades Counties as their circuit judge. However, she continues to preside over drug court every Thursday in Collier County because she believes in the purpose of this court. Also, she now presides over drug court in Hendry County and sees great potential for this court as well.

Probation Officers Have the Sheriff's Appreciation

Three Collier County Probation Officers received Certificates of Appreciation from the Collier County Sheriff's Office on February 2, 2009. Nicole Shivak, Chris Wilkinson and Ashlee Jablonski were thanked by Collier County Sheriff Kevin Rambosk for their partnering with deputies to conduct probation checks that resulted in twenty-six arrests for probation violators in 2008. Additionally, the joint efforts yielded the recovery of stolen property, identification of criminal associates, and, seizure of illegal narcotics.



◆ Hendry County

New Position Takes Over Hendry County Juvenile Arbitration Program

On February 9, 2009 Marcia Salmon began working for the Administrative Office of the Courts as the Program Services Coordinator for Hendry County. This position was created to coordinate the Juvenile Arbitration and Drug Court Programs that already existed in Hendry County and to reinstitute the Teen Court Program that was discontinued seven years ago due to funding.

Previously, a grant funded position coordinated the three programs. When grant money was no longer available Lee County began providing oversight for the Juvenile Arbitration Program and a circuit-wide Drug Court Coordinator monitored the drug court, but the Teen Court Program ended. In September 2008 the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners approved funding for the new position from monies dedicated to these specific programs.

Supervision of the Juvenile Arbitration Program was transferred to Hendry County AOC as of mid-March. Additionally, Ms. Salmon is now a drug court team member and is looking for grant money to enhance the program. The Teen Court Program is under development and plans at this time are for it to begin operating with the 2009/2010 school year.

Courthouse Construction Underway and On Schedule

Hendry County began demolition of the first floor of its courthouse in early January 2009. The plans to add a new courtroom, holding cells, judge's chambers, judicial assistant office, conference room, court administration office and enhanced security area are finally underway, after a lengthy period of development.

The Board of County Commissioners secured Small County Grant funding from OSCA (Office of the State Court Administrator) over several years with the goal of renovating the courthouse. The current courthouse has only two courtrooms, one each on the second and third floors. More space was needed to accommodate growing dockets and a part-time magistrate. However, in a building already filled to capacity, preparations needed to begin well in advance of the construction.

The Clerk of Court evacuated space on the first floor where the new courtroom will be located with adjacent holding cells and attorney meeting room. Court Administration will have an office located on the first floor as well, next to the new security station. In space formerly occupied by the Hendry County Probation

department will be the judge's chambers, judicial assistant's office and a conference room. Moreover, a server room will be added to house technology equipment.

Construction has been on target. The project is expected to be substantially complete by the end of June and fully completed by the end of July.

At right: Craig McLean, Chief Technology Officer (rt) with electrician and engineer in soon to be server room.
Below: Framing for Court Administration Office completed.



Courthouse will have renovated Sally Port with two large holding cells.



Left: New security area will extend into the atrium. There will be a control room on one side and the Court Administration Office on the other.



Location of new courtroom on the first floor of the courthouse. Engineer and Craig McLean working out wiring and conduit for the judge's bench.

The Human Resource FYI

AOC Auto Insurance Discount

AAA Auto Club South offers Administrative Office of the Courts employees car insurance at discounted rates. This applies to both state and county funded employees. Inquiries can be made to the individuals listed below.

Susan Johnson
www.aaasouth.com/susan.johnson
239-936-7499 ext. 3247

Janie Albertson
www.aaasouth.com/janie.albertson
941-627-1544 ext. 222

Workers Compensation

WC information has been updated and can be viewed on the AOC intranet (<http://caintra/>). Coverage for employees is provided through the following:

State- "OptaComp" 1-877-518-2583
Lee County- "Florida League of Cities" 1-877-676-3890
Charlotte County- "Alternative Service Concepts, Inc."
1-866-397-6516
Collier County- "Johns Eastern Co. Inc."
1-800-749-3044
Hendry County- "Genex Managed Care" 1-80-477-3502

Family Medical Leave Act-FMLA

Documents for FMLA have been upgraded and accessed on the AOC intranet.

Reminder: Personal Holidays!

Regular full-time STATE employees must use their personal holidays by June 30, 2009. It's the classic "Use it or lose it" scenario.



Upcoming Staff Training

The Human Resource Department will be providing Supervisor and Staff training on the following topics:

- *Dealing with Difficult People
- *Public Speaking
- *Sexual Harassment

Training will be provided on several dates in May. Registration will be completed electronically via the court intranet (<http://caintra/>). Staff will be notified by email when the electronic registration goes live. In the meantime save a date that works with your schedule.

Collier County
May 7, 2009
May 15, 2009

Lee County
May 6, 2009
May 8, 2009
May 13, 2009

Circuit Times Newsletter

Chief Judge
G. Keith Cary

Trial Court Administrator
Richard Callanan

Deputy Court Administrator
Lisa Kiesel

Editor
Sheila Mann

Court Photographer
Carrie Chalker-Smith

Contributors

Chuck Rice, Criminal Division Director, Collier
Sherry Munroe, Pretrial Svcs Supervisor, Charlotte
Sharon Suhar, Human Resources Manager

Guest Contributor

Rita Heckler, Lee County Clerk's Office

Check out our website at www.ca.cjis20.org for information on court activities, calendars and more.