



The Circuit Times

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Chief Judge G.
Keith Cary*

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The Twentieth Circuit Emerging as a State Leader

Chief Judge G. Keith Cary

For many years the Florida State Court System has been guided by very capable judges from the larger judicial circuits such as Miami-Dade, Broward and Orange Counties. However, the Twentieth Circuit has begun to show itself as a leader on State Court issues by the appointment of a number of our judges to very influential positions within the administration of justice in Florida.

Circuit Judge Margaret Steinbeck, after working on various statewide committees over the years was recently appointed the vice-chair for the Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC). As vice-chair Judge Steinbeck will serve on the Executive Committee of the TCBC and will be directly involved in the formulation of all budgeting for the state court system.

On August 20, 2010 County Judge Paul Alessandrone was appointed to serve on the Florida Supreme Court Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability. Judge Alessandrone is one of only two county judges in the state of Florida on this commission. This commission is tasked with all matters related to the efficient and effective functioning of Florida's Trial Courts through the development of comprehensive performance measurement, resource management and accountability programs.

Our own Trial Court Administrator, Rick Callanan, has been appointed to the Florida Court Education Council which is responsible for all training of judges and court personnel within the State Court System.

To a much lesser extent than the above referenced luminaries, yours truly serves as a member of the Court Statistics and Workload Committee of the Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability. This committee addresses policy issues as is necessary to maintain the integrity of the Summary Reporting System, the Weighted Caseload Model and the Uniform Data Reporting System and all other data collection efforts related to trial court activity. In other words, I work for Judge Alessandrone!

Let me conclude by urging everyone, if you are asked to serve on any committee, be it a statewide committee, a committee for your judicial conference or on the numerous local committees and boards for which we all volunteer our time, I would ask you to please participate. I think you will find it to be a very rewarding experience and it will continue to add to the stature of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit.



Where is the Silver Lining?

Richard Callanan, Trial Court Administrator

Where is the Silver Lining? -- Funding Success Follows High Performance for Innovative Courts



It is always difficult to see the silver lining during tough economic times. Yet despite budget woes and sacrifices over the past two years, the 20th Circuit's performance as an organization is stronger on every measure of productivity and the future is brighter than ever.

How can this be true? One axiom of organizational success is that **"funding follows performance and innovation"**. What this means is that historically, high performing courts that continue to strive for improvement even during times of budget decline tend to attract more support and funding success over the long term.

Just exactly how does that work? One theory—when money is tight funding entities turn to agencies that they trust to get the most innovation bang at the lowest cost to the public purse.

This has certainly been the case in the 20th. Progressive case management and jail reduction programs have attracted more than \$1 million in federal funding for criminal DCM and jail reduction programs. The development of a five year Court Technology integration master plan led to \$1.8 million in funding for 2010-2012. Innovative E- First Appearance and AWACS warrant alert systems have received national achievement awards in 2009. Civil DCM and backlog reduction plans in the 20th led to a \$9 million legislative appropriation in 2010, of which \$1 million went to investments in 20th circuit civil magistrates, case managers and clerk staff. All of these innovations occurred during times of severe budget downturns.

The key ingredient to this success is not just programs and improving performance statistics. It is the people. It is a fact that the leadership of presiding judges, trial judges and court staff are

driving creative solutions to complex issues at lower costs. Success breeds success. Organizations that demonstrate the ability to deliver higher value at lower costs tend to shine in tough times.

The 20th circuit has shown that it is possible to create your own "silver lining". The future is always positive for high performing, innovative court organizations. The Twentieth is quietly leading the pack and the future is brighter because of it.

Family Law Magistrate Appointed to Circuit Bench



Former Family Law Magistrate Lee A. Schreiber took the oath of office at her investiture ceremony held on May 14, 2010. Guest speakers at the investiture included County Judge Archie Hayward, Retired Circuit Judge Hugh E. Starnes and local attorney Kim P. Hart.

The Oath of Office was administered by Judge Starnes.

Judge Schreiber was appointed to the circuit bench by Governor Charlie Christ on January 12, 2010 to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Larry Martin. She took the bench on February 8, 2010.

Prior to her appointment Judge Schreiber had been a family law magistrate for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit since September 2005. In private practice, Thompson and Schreiber, she handled family cases as well.

Currently Judge Schreiber is assigned to Charlotte County presiding over Juvenile Dependency cases full time.



Charlotte County Judge Woodard Retired after Twenty Years of Service

County Judge W. Wayne Woodard who served the people of Charlotte County retired at the end of August after twenty years on the bench.

On August 26th an intimate gathering was held at the Charlotte County Courthouse where Chief Judge G. Keith Cary presented Judge Woodard with an award of service. The ceremony included the judges of Charlotte County, the Chief Judge and the Trial Court Administrator Rick Callanan as well as court staff. Judge Woodard requested a small, quiet gathering with no fanfare, at which he could say good-bye to his colleagues and court staff.



Judge Woodard's last day on the bench was August 31st.

New County Judge Takes the Bench September 1st

On September 1, 2010 Judge John L. Burns took the bench in Charlotte County. Judge Burns was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge W. Wayne Woodard.

Judge Burns is a former assistant state attorney with fifteen years of courtroom experience. His investiture is slated for January of 2011.



Deputy Criminal Justice Director Elected to Statewide Board

Lee County Deputy Criminal Justice Director, Jeff Nichols, was elected in July to sit as the Vice President of the Florida Association of Community Corrections (FACC). His main objective will be to assist the FACC president and other board members in planning various statewide training programs for Probation/Parole, Pretrial and Juvenile Officers. It is a two year position, however, historically the incumbents run unopposed and serve four years before stepping down. Mr. Nichols was elected to the Executive Board in 2009.



The FACC hosted its annual Training Institute July 14-July 16 in St. Petersburg. Bringing Probation and Parole Officers together since 1992 to share knowledge and learn about effective corrections programs, this year's theme was "dealing with trauma". Workshops included: Community Corrections Partnering with Community Resources, Courts Assisting Combat Veterans in the Community, Evidence Based Probation Practices, Motivational Interviewing and many others.

This year's Institute was attended by almost 200 professionals from DOC, DJJ, Pretrial Services as well as county and privately operated probation departments from around the state. Mr. Nichols is very proud of the FACC's accomplishments and is honored to serve in this new capacity.

Mr. Nichols began his career with the Twentieth Judicial Circuit in 1995 as a probation officer in Collier County. He became the Deputy Director in Collier in 1998 and then in 2007 became the Deputy Director in Lee County.

Factoid: As of June 30, 2009 there were 189,636 offenders on Community Supervision in Florida.

Twentieth Recognizes Volunteers at Annual Dinner

by Bruce Waddell

On Thursday, May 6, 2010, the Lee County Arbitration/Mediation Advisory Board and Judiciary of the 20th Judicial Circuit sponsored the 20th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The event was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Ft. Myers and was attended by approximately one hundred and twenty individuals. Those in attendance came from Lee, Collier, Charlotte and Hendry counties and included volunteer mediators, volunteer juvenile arbitrators, judges, guests and staff.

Awards for five, ten, fifteen and twenty years of volunteer service were given to both volunteer mediators and juvenile arbitrators. Eight individuals were feted for their dedication to assisting their fellow citizens and the court system. Judge Sturgis along with numerous other judges addressed the gathering and expressed their appreciation for the excellent efforts put forth by those in attendance.

Funding for the event was provided through generous donations to the Advisory Board by the judiciary, law firms and individual mediators. Without that support the event would not take place.

The volunteers all expressed their sincere gratitude for the evening and recognition they received.



Mediation and Arbitration Volunteers



Above Arbitrators and Mediators receiving their awards, from left to right: Alyssa Hanmer, Andy Gentile, Ann Sell, Linda Forcey, John Traube and Howard Andert.

Chief Deputy Court Administrator becomes Fellow

Lisa Kiesel, Chief Deputy Court Administrator for the Twentieth became a Fellow and Certified Court Executive at the Institute for Court Management (ICM) in May. Having successfully completed the rigorous requirements of the Court Executive



Development Program (CEDP) she participated in the graduation ceremony conducted at the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. where Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. addressed the graduates.

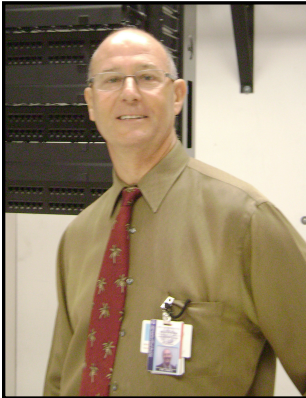
CEDP was established over thirty years ago by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger with the intent of improving the management of state court administration. This is an intensive education program designed to better prepare court professionals for leadership and management roles. It boasts 1,100 Fellows since its inception.

Twentieth Continues to Respond to Foreclosure Demands

Like many circuits across the state the Twentieth is adapting to the demands of huge foreclosure dockets as a result of the economic downturn. Having implemented an expedited approach over a year ago, the circuit recently implemented a new plan aimed at reducing backlogs by 62%. The strategy is to focus senior judge resources, magistrates and temporary full time case managers and assistants on pending foreclosure cases while staying current with filings. It's an ambitious plan but one that will benefit the parties, the courts and the housing market. Funding for this initiative is a one-time allotment from the state legislature to address the great challenge presented by the foreclosure cases.

The Clerks of Court have also been provided funding so that the courts and clerks can work in tandem supporting each other in order to reduce the backlogs and move the cases forward.

Two Staff Receive Florida CCIO Certification



Craig McLean, Trial Court Technology Officer (*left*), and Joe Friess, CJIS Director (*below*), recently received CCIO-Certified Chief Information Officer-certification. CCIO is a program sponsored by the Florida Local Government Information Systems Association.

CCIO courses are year long, 240 hour certification programs presented by Florida State University. Participants are required to complete 88 hours of class work and 80 hours of out-of-class work and a capstone project that requires 72 hours of effort. All work is peer reviewed by program mentors and the Florida Local Government Public Technology Leadership Council. Upon approval of completed work, certification is granted by the Florida Institute of Government at Florida State University.



AND not to be outdone, Paul Ackerman, Computer Systems Network Engineer, received his Certified Information Systems Security Professional certification (CSSIP). CSSIP is not only an objective measure of excellence, but is a globally recognized standard of achievement as well. CSSIP was the first credential in the field of information security accredited by the American National Standards Institute.

“Be nice to geeks when you re in school, you might end up working for one when you grow-up.”

Miami-Dade Judge Speaks to Local Public Safety Coordinating Council

by Jeff Nichols

The Lee County Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) was fortunate to have east coast Judge Steven Leifman as a guest speaker for the council meeting on August 13, 2010. Judge Leifman is Miami-Dade County Judge who has led an intensive and focused effort to link mental health inmates with services in the community.

The PSCC, chaired by Judge Radford Sturgis, decided to contact Judge Leifman after the Reintegration subcommittee suggested the PSCC reach out to him because of the positive impact he has had on the Miami-Dade jail population. His assertion is that jails have become the “dumping grounds for the mentally ill” and that it takes the coordinated efforts of the courts, court programs, community mental health providers and the community at large to reduce the number of mentally ill inmates and interrupt the cycle of arrest-jail-rearrest that goes on in every jail across the state. Through his efforts, and the efforts of his team, the Miami-Dade jail is no longer the “largest state hospital for the mentally ill” said Judge Leifman. With funding from grants and the state the reintegration of mentally ill defendants has reduced the jail population and the costs associated with the treatment and housing of these individuals.



Judge Steven Leifman

The Reintegration subcommittee works towards improving the re-entry process for defendants being released from custody by identifying services or them in the community that can assist with the transition from incarceration to free, independent living. In Lee County the probation department has worked closely with the COPE (Community Offender Probation and Education) Program offered by the Fort Myers Police Department which specifically deals with the re-entry effort.

The council meeting was well attended and the ideas presented by Judge Leifman inspired the group to research ways in which Lee County could duplicate some of the plans implemented in the 11th Circuit.

The Human Resource FYI

State Open Enrollment 2010 Calendar of Events

Attention State Employees

Open Enrollment for pre-tax benefits begins September 27, 2010. This is your opportunity to change or amend your benefits. Enrollment packets will be mailed to your home address.

For more information you can go to www.myflorida.com/MyBenefits/ and click on "Open Enrollment for the 2011 Plan Year" or you can contact the Human Resources Department at 239-533-1705.

September 10th

Verify your address- it must be correct in People First by 5pm Eastern time to be sure you receive your open enrollment information in the mail.

September 13th-24th

Look for your packet in the mail.

September 27th (8am ET)
thru October 22nd (6pm ET)

Open Enrollment-complete all changes online in People First.

September 27th thru
October 15th

Benefit Fairs

October 25th thru
November 5th

Correction Period- make corrections by 6pm Eastern time.

American Management Association Offers Webcasts

The HR Department announces that free management webcasts will be offered in September. The trainings will be presented by the American Management Association (AMA) and will cover such topics as Reading Body Language, Effective Teams and Leadership vs. Management. To register you may call 877-566-9441 or go to the AMA website and set up an account. For additional information or assistance you may contact Manny Thomas in Human Resources at 239-533-1756.

September 22: *The Orange Revolution: How One Great Team Can Transform an Entire Organization*

September 29: *Management? It's Not What You Think*

ADA-Deaf and Hard of Hearing Workshops

The Administrative Office of the Courts has scheduled twelve workshops to help staff improve communication skills to better assist citizens who are deaf or hearing impaired. Representatives from the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Charlotte County's Hearing Impaired Persons will host these workshops as part of the Council's task force to work collaboratively with employers in developing training materials for the justice system. Below are the dates and times of the workshops thru December of 2010. The series continues into 2011 and will be held in Lee, Charlotte and Collier Counties. The dates/times of those workshops will be posted later.

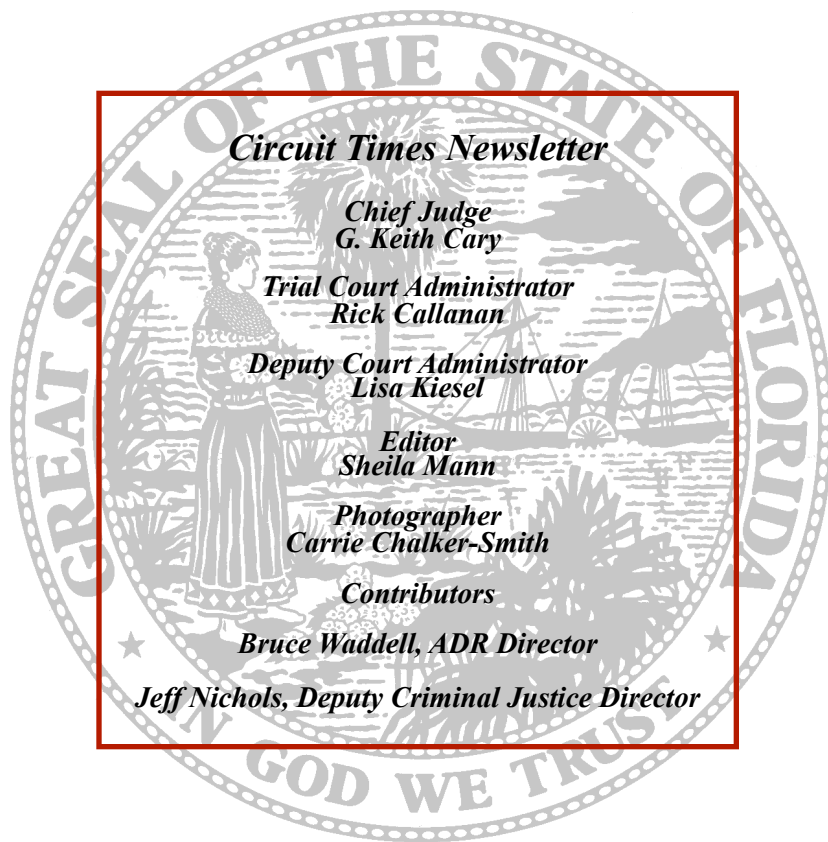
You can register on the Intranet at <http://caintra/events/login.asp> under Events Registration.

Lee County:

September 28th... 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Conference Rm B, suite 402
October 26th... 9:00 am - 11:00 am	Conference Rm B, suite 402
November 16th... 9:00 am - 11:00 am	Conference Rm B, suite 402
December 14th... 9:00 am - 11:00 am	Conference Rm B, suite 402

Judges and State Employees

UNUM Long Term Disability will hold an Open Enrollment period for judges and state employees from November 1-30, 2010. If you have questions about long term disability, please call toll free 877-652-0221 or visit the website@ www.lifesolutions.com/courts.htm



Circuit Times Newsletter

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***The Twentieth Judicial Circuit of the State of Florida, serving
Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties.***