

THE CIRCUIT TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE 20TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

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One+ Year Later

From ordering face masks, plastic shields, and cleaning supplies to telling people to “unmute themselves” the past 18 months was a time court employees likely never imagined they would have to work through.

“How could we have ever predicted something like this? Once we knew what we were up against, I think we all did a great job in getting the courts up and running as quickly as possible,” said Chuck Rice, Administrative Services Manager for Collier County.

At the onset, the communication from the Supreme Court was fast-moving. Everyone had to quickly learn and apply this information to their daily tasks. Considering the Courts are not a work-from-home organization everyone seemed to adapt to the temporary way of working while continuing to provide essential services.

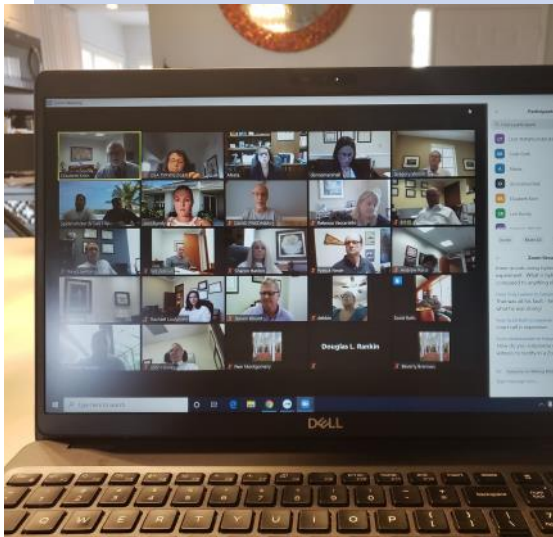
“The coronavirus pandemic has been challenging for many professionals and caused a great deal of disruption in our lives, having to navigate through unknown waters and forcing us to rapidly adapt and rethink priorities,” said Dawn Whittington, Chief of Human Resources.

The use of Zoom kept court cases flowing and helped courts remain operational during the pandemic. Not only was Zoom essential for court proceedings while in-person events were not permitted, it also ensured everyone remained connected.

“Technology was necessary for so many employees to be able to telecommute in our earlier phase, and the need continued in our efforts to have productive and effective meetings with staff/management, other agencies, and the defendants we supervise on Pretrial Supervision, Diversion, and Probation,” said Amy Kinsey, Lee County Criminal Division Director.

Technology was also necessary to give the public access to courts. As trials resumed throughout the Circuit, live streaming was also made available for people to watch in real time.

The Circuits first jury trials were held on September 15th, 2020 in Lee and Hendry County in front of Lee County Judge Devin George and Judge James Sloan.





Judge Daniel Monaco passes away at 85

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of the Honorable Daniel R. Monaco at the age of 85.

Judge Monaco contracted polio in high school and had to wear an iron lung for a year, but that couldn't hold him back. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, went to law school, became a Naples attorney and then was elected to the county and circuit bench in the 1990's. He led an exemplary life and career.

Judge Monaco received his BA from Russell Sage University and his JD from the University of Miami, School of Law. He graduated in 1967 and practiced law as a member of the firm of Monaco, Cardillo and Keith until his election to the Twentieth Judicial Circuit in 1996. He retired in 2008 when he turned 70 and then served as a Senior Judge.

Based in Collier County, Judge Monaco presided over truancy court, juvenile court, domestic relations court, and was instrumental in the county's juvenile drug court, drug court, and mental health court.

In 2008, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Italian American Bar Association. He was recognized in 2015 by the American Inns of Court of Collier County for exceptional service in the administration of Collier County's residential foreclosure docket.

During his time as an attorney, he was President of the Collier County Bar Association, was commissioner and chair of the 20th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission, founder and chairman of its Family Law Section, chair of the Family Law Section of the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers and a sustaining member of the American Trial Lawyers Association and its family law section.

Judge Monaco was Board Certified in Civil Trial Practice and Family Law and was in the first class to be Board Certified by the Florida Bar Association.

In addition to his legal achievements, Monaco has been honored for other accomplishments, including founding the Naples' Italian-American Club and helping establish Naples as a sister city with Naples, Italy.



Judge George Richards retires



In October 2020, Circuit Judge George Richards retired from the Twentieth Circuit after 11 years on the bench in Charlotte County.

Richards announced his resignation from his seat on the 20th Judicial Circuit Court on August 7, 2020, in a letter to Gov. Ron DeSantis, citing health reasons. He was appointed by former Governor Charlie Crist on August 11, 2009, to replace the late Lynne E. Dailey. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Richards was the chief assistant statewide prosecutor in the Ft. Myers Office of the Attorney General.

While a member of the Equal Opportunities Law Section, in 2007 Richards helped draft a proposed change for Rule of Judicial Administration 2.540, Notice to Persons with Disabilities. While working with the Florida Disability Independence Group, he looked at courthouse access and how persons with disabilities operate within courthouses. He was a featured speaker in 2006 at The Florida Bar Annual Convention CLE symposium, "Removing Barriers to the Legal Profession for Lawyers with Disabilities," and has worked on diversity issues. He was also a member of the Committee on Professionalism.

Judge Gilberto Perez was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to fill the Circuit Judge seat.

Judge James Adams retires

We said farewell to Judge James R. Adams on June 11th, 2021. Judge Adams served on the Lee County bench since 1992 when he was first elected.

Judge Adams began his legal career as an Assistant Deputy Public Defender for the Public Defender's Office in Fort Myers. He was also employed as legal counsel to Southwest Florida International Airport and as an Assistant Lee County Attorney.

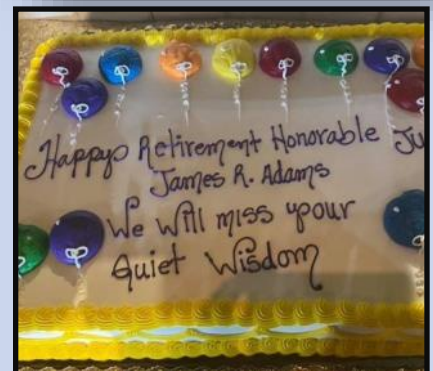
In addition to his duties behind the bench, Judge Adams is a founding Master of the Calusa Inns of Court, a past chair of the 20th Judicial Circuit Arbitration and Mediation Advisory Board, and a member of the Florida Bar Grievance Committee and the Edison Community College Board of Trustees. He was also actively involved in the Rotary Club and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia and his Juris Doctor Degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina.

Judge Adams plans on spending his time traveling, fishing, and playing several rounds of golf.

In his retirement letter to Governor DeSantis, Judge Adams said, "It has been a wonderful experience and I would not exchange it for anything, except retirement."

Attorney Nicole Mirra has been appointed to fill his position on the Lee County Bench. Ms. Mirra has served as staff counsel at Allstate Insurance since 2019. Previously, she served as an Assistant State Attorney for 13 years. She received her bachelor's degree from Florida Gulf Coast University and law degree from Western Michigan University School of Law.



Judge McHugh re-elected to fourth term

Chief Judge Michael McHugh, Twentieth Judicial Circuit, was re-elected by his colleagues to serve another two-year term, running from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023. He has served as chief judge since July 2015.



Currently, he is a member of the Workgroup On The Continuity Of Court Operations And Proceedings During And After Covid-19 and leads the sub-group on civil, probate, guardianship, and mental health courts. Also, Chief Judge McHugh is part of the Florida Supreme Court's Judicial Management Council.

He is assigned to the Civil Division in Lee County, having previously served in the Felony, Juvenile, and Family Law Divisions. He has served as the administrative judge both in the Family Law Division and the Civil Division.

Chief Judge McHugh received his BA in accounting and his law degree from the University of Florida. He started his legal career as an assistant state attorney in Fort Myers, where he worked from 1992 – 1995. After leaving this position, he was the managing attorney for Allstate's staff counsel offices in Fort Myers and Tampa until his appointment to the circuit bench in April 2006.

In 2011, Chief Judge McHugh was named the Jurist of the Year by the American Board of Trial Advocates Southwest Florida Chapter. In addition to being on the faculty of Florida SouthWestern State College, where he teaches undergraduate legal courses, he is also very involved in community activities: he has chaired the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life two times and volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, Uncommon Friends Foundation, Greater Fort Myers Soccer Club, and Fort Myers American Little League.

Judge Perez welcomed to the Circuit bench

In October 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Judge Perez to the Circuit Court. He is assigned to the Unified Family Court Division in Fort Myers, Florida.

Prior to his appointment as a Circuit Court Judge, he served as a Magistrate for the 20th Judicial Circuit and presided over family law, Baker Act, and Marchman Act proceedings from 2015-2020. Judge Perez has lectured throughout the state on all areas of family and dependency law, and legal ethics. He has received numerous awards for his pro bono service and in 2018 was named Jurist of the Year by the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Judge Gilberto Perez is a first-generation American born in Miami, Florida to Cuban parents who immigrated to the United States in 1967. He completed his undergraduate studies at Florida International University, majoring in Psychology and graduating with high honors. He later graduated cum laude from Notre Dame Law School in Indiana.

We look forward to hosting his Investiture in October 2021 in Lee County.



Chief Information Officer Craig McLean retires



On June 11th, 2021 we said farewell to our Chief Information Officer, Craig McLean. For the past nineteen years, Craig has moved the 20th into the enhanced age of technology we live in today.

Craig was instrumental in helping the judicial branch move from a paper-based system toward an electronic system. This includes the electronic filing of cases and the development of the court management information system judicial viewers. During the pandemic, the court technology department worked at full speed under Mr. McLean ensuring everyone's needs were covered. This included ordering webcams, laptops, and purchasing Zoom licenses to guarantee court proceedings could continue and employees remained connected.

Since Craig retired, he's been busy finishing up his outdoor workshop to start production on wood items people can use in gardens, planter boxes, trellises, and gates. They are all made from wood that he gathered after Irma. Edison and Ford Winter Estates (EFWE) has several garden shows a year and he plans on selling his wares there. He's also doing some pro bono tech work for the Lee County Bar Association and plans to continue to work with the Florida Courts Technology Commission's Security Committee, helping write security policies and specifications. Finally, he plans on continuing his volunteer role as Treasurer for the EFWE board of trustees.

"I'm sure going to miss everyone. Even the cranky, non-tech judges and users that I hope I urged along the paperless path as painlessly as possible," Craig said. "Finally, a shout out to the Technology Staff, best in the business, thank you for your smarts, innovative nature, and just plain hard work to make life good for our 'double clickers.'"



Charlotte County Justice Center Renovations



In March 2021, renovations to the Charlotte County Justice Center were completed. These renovations included adding a new secure entry pavilion, relocating the Clerk of Courts records storage, adding space for new courtrooms, and remodeling and relocating offices for the state attorney, public defender and clerk of court.

Renovations were done while keeping the Justice Center open and in operation with no interruption to court proceedings.



Most of the space was previously occupied by county records, so most of the projects were done within the existing building footprint. This also saved millions of taxpayer dollars.

The project also included installing a new backup generator that will allow the Justice Center to have power during hurricanes and other power interruptions. This part of the project was funded by the 1% sales tax that voters approved in 2014.

Sweet Sparkman Architects along with Ajax Building Company designed and constructed this project with LEED "green" building concepts in mind.



Collier Drug Court receives grant

Written by: Coastal Breeze News ; Nov. 28, 2020

Collier County Community and Human Services received \$500,000 for the Collier County Drug Court program in November 2020. The funds were made possible through the BJA Adult Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court Discretionary Grant Program which provides financial and technical assistance to states, state courts, local courts, units of local government and tribal governments to develop, implement and enhance Drug Courts and Veterans Treatment Courts. BJA grants help fight the addiction crisis looming over the United States, dramatically impacting crime victims, children, families, first responders and communities at large.

The goal of this enhancement funding is to improve the Collier County Drug Court's capability to identify all drugs of misuse through alcohol and other drug testing activities, improve retention/completion rates, and support participants and their families in long-term recovery.

The funds will specifically help expand and provide more frequent drug testing, enhance data collection and evaluation, and enhance support through the addition of a Peer Support Specialist to the treatment team. The Peer Support specialist will help Drug Court enhance its Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC)—an emerging best practice that utilizes individuals in recovery to develop a more complete network of recovering persons and families who support each other in personal, economic, housing and vocational development.

In March 2020, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals named the Collier County Drug Court program a Mentor Drug Court. Only eight mentor courts in the country have the distinction, making it an example to the nation. The recognition highlights the unique sense of collaboration and commitment to evidence-based practice and high standards for this type of program.

"We greatly appreciate our collaboration with the County and our Drug Court partners," said Scott Burgess, DLC Chief Executive Officer. "By working together to further enhance Drug Court, we are saving the lives of individuals with substance use disorders, strengthening families, and enhancing community safety through evidence-based treatment and practices that promote honesty, personal responsibility, wellness and recovery."

"Community and Human Services is pleased to continue to partner with the David Lawrence Center on this critical project serving our community," said Kristi Sonntag, Collier County Community and Human Services Director.

Drug courts have demonstrated to reduce recidivism and substance use among high-risk, high-need participants and increase their likelihood of successful rehabilitation. These courts integrate evidence-based substance use disorder treatment, mandatory drug testing, sanctions and incentives, and transitional services in judicially supervised court settings.

Lee County Criminal Division receives re-accreditation

On October 14, 2020, Lee County's Criminal Division was recommended and awarded their fifth accreditation before the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission. They were the first agency to go through an accreditation via virtual means and are able to help shape future assessments. The team also had their 5th successful on-site since 2009 in which assessors reviewed policies and procedures to ensure practice meets policy, verified time sensitive proofs and interviewed staff.

The Florida Corrections Accreditation program offers the opportunity to evaluate an agency's operations against standards developed by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission and the Association of Pretrial Professionals of Florida. This process allows administrative staff to remedy deficiencies and upgrade the quality of the agency's programs and services.

"I would like to thank all who assisted with preparing for this assessment and particularly recognize Mr. Shawn Carlson, our Accreditation Manager, for ensuring we were fully prepared, with the assistance of Ms. Ashley Cohen and Ms. Candy Caughey. This is an achievement we should be very proud of and I commend all staff for their commitment to excellence, to the accreditation process and in helping us continue to raise the bar," said Criminal Division Director Amy Kinsey.



Judge Swett leaves a legacy with treatment courts



Judge Swett handed the gavel for treatment courts over to Judge Josephine Gagliardi and Judge Leigh Hayes on July 1st, 2021. He's presided over Lee County's Treatment Courts for the last several years, which includes Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veterans Treatment Court. Judge Swett was instrumental in establishing the Veterans Treatment Court program in Lee County that has served over 100 justice-involved veterans since inception in 2015.

Judge Gagliardi will take over Mental Health Court and Veterans Treatment Court and Judge Hayes is returning to preside over Judge Swett's Drug Court docket. Both Judge Gagliardi and Judge Hayes bring a combined 21+ years of

training and experience in problem-solving courts and share a passion for leadership and recovery.

"The growth we have experienced with your assistance is much appreciated. Over the past two years we have doubled our success rate in all of our treatment court programs and that has a lot to do with our judges," said Treatment Courts Manager Joseph Rea.

Drug Court and Mental Health Court have each had over 550 graduates since program inception.



Although he isn't presiding over the treatment courts docket, Judge Swett plans to remain one of three Circuit Champions within the 20th representing the Florida Courts Substance Abuse Response Opioids & Stimulants Solutions. He also plans to remain actively involved in Lee County initiatives to improve Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder treatment.

The Lee County Treatment Courts team continues to prepare for the upcoming State Certification process for all treatment courts.



Magistrate Whitney Sworn In

In June 2021, we welcomed Magistrate Christopher Whitney to Lee County. He was sworn in by Chief Judge Michael McHugh.

Magistrate Whitney began practicing law in Fort Myers in 2004 as an assistant Public Defender and was most recently in private practice (Criminal & Civil Law) in Ft. Myers. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Lee County Legal Aid Society.

Mr. Whitney grew up in Tampa and was dual-enrolled in college while in his final year of high school. After receiving his degree in Political Science, he moved on to law school at the University of Florida where he graduated with his law degree.



Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week recognized



The Lee County Criminal Division recognizes Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week, although slightly different in 2020.

In 1999, the American Probation and Parole Association began lobbying for every state to make a proclamation in order to honor pretrial and probation professionals for the tremendous role they play. Officers promote pretrial justice while enhancing public safety and motivating positive change. The theme this year is “Restoring Trust, Creating Hope”. The Board of County Commissioners recognized these achievements via the Resolution below. Officers were encouraged to reflect on the difference each make in so many lives.

As a token of appreciation, the division’s management team set up grab and go breakfast items. Officers were thanked for their passion and commitment to the defendants they work with and help become successful, to the courts and criminal justice partners, and to the citizens of Lee County.

Opioid Presentation for Opioid Awareness Month



Dr. Eugene L. Manuel, D.O. & Dr. Raman K. Dhillon-Gill, D.O.

August is Opioid Awareness Month in the Florida courts. Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles T. Canady issued a Proclamation establishing August 2020 “to be known within the State Courts System as a month of awareness regarding opioids and the treatment of opioid use disorder”.

Opioids are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone, codeine and morphine. Opioids attach to nerve cell receptors and diminish the perception of pain. Some are derived from the poppy plants and some are synthetic. Dopamine is released providing powerful feelings of pleasure, and when the euphoria wears off, or when pain returns, dependence can occur and more opioids desired.

The opioid crisis has had devastating consequences including increases in misuse and related overdoses as well as the rising incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome due to opioid use and misuse during pregnancy.

As a substantial proportion of adult drug court participants have a moderate to severe opioid use disorder, the use of medicated assisted treatment has become widely accepted as an added tool to combat opioid addiction, coupled with a combination of behavioral or cognitive-behavioral counseling and other psychosocial services. Medication-assisted treatment is used to address the biological, psychological and social aspects of an opioid use disorder. Medications approved by the FDA for the treatment of opioid use disorders- Methadone, Buprenorphine and Naltrexone.

MAT is available for participants in the Lee County Drug Court Program, under the direction of the Honorable Josephine Gagliardi and Honorable Andrew Swett. MAT was introduced approximately two years ago for use in the program, via TLS Consulting as our contracted treatment provider, and is overseen Dr. Eugene L. Manuel, D.O. On August 28th, Dr. Manuel presented to the Problem Solving Court teams via Zoom in order to provide further awareness regarding opioids and related treatment. Dr. Manuel discussed the impact and experience he has seen since implementation of MAT for opioid addiction in the program. Drug Court Program graduates also shared personal stories of how they overcame opioid addiction through the use of MAT.

Mass Adoptions take place virtually

Zoom hearings were conducted in Charlotte, Collier and Lee counties during November 2020 to give 36 children a forever home as their adoptions were finalized during National Adoption Awareness Month.

On Wednesday November 18, 18 children had their finalization hearings via Zoom with Judge Carolyn Swift and Judge Gil Perez. Two sets of sibling groups received permanent homes, as well as a teen youth.

In Collier County, Zoom hearings were held Friday, November 20 when 8 adoptions were finalized by Judge Shannon McFee. This included two sibling groups, one of which is three children and a child with significant medical needs. There were 4 additional children who had their adoptions finalized in Collier County on November 10th.

The final hearings were held on Friday, November 20 in Charlotte County in front of Judge Mary Evans. This included one set of siblings.

National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than 110,000 children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. Since its inception, this annual, one-day event has made the dreams of nearly 65,000 children come true.

The Children's Network is the lead agency for child welfare in Southwest Florida. Since 2004, they have been responsible for recruiting and supporting prospective adoptive parents and have finalized 2,362 adoptions. As of Nov. 2020 there were 245 chil-

dren waiting for adoption; 56 of these children have no identified home. Interested families can contact the agency at 1-855-933-KIDS to learn what is needed to get involved.

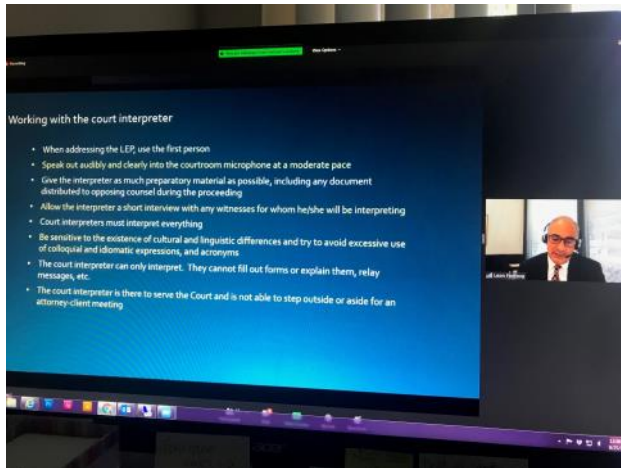


First Hendry County Drug Court graduation held

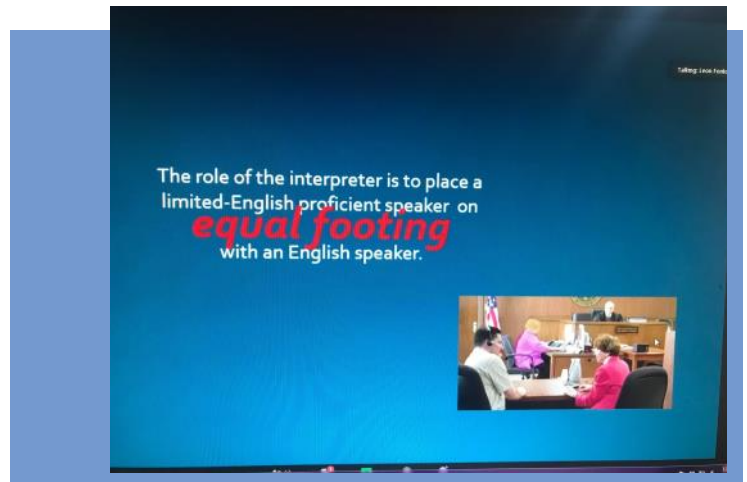


On September 14, 2020, Hendry County had its first Drug Court Graduation after re-implementing the program in July, 2018. The Hendry County Drug Court Coordinator, Cristina Filson was able to have the CEO, Project Director, Director, and Training coordinator come and speak at our Graduation Ceremony. They were Carson Fox, NADCP CEO; Daryl Jackson, Project Director, NDCI; Brittany Lanier, NADCP Training Coordinator; Vanessa Price, Director, NDCI as well as our normal drug court team. We have four more participants nearing graduation and are hoping to increase our numbers to provide this much needed substance abuse treatment option for the rural community of Hendry.

Interpreter training held for attorneys



In September 2020, our Court Interpreting Department held a virtual training via Zoom for the Lee County Bar Association. The purpose of the training was to help members understand the role of the interpreter and how to schedule or request an interpreter.



The Court Interpreter At Your Service

Judge Hill declares national FFA Week



Friday, February 5, 2021, the Honorable Judge Hill made a stop at LaBelle High School to sign the official proclamation to declare February 21-26, 2021 National FFA Week. FFA is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education. Members are future chemists, veterinarians, government officials, entrepreneurs, bankers, international business leaders, teachers, and premier professionals in many career fields. The LaBelle FFA Chapter will be holding Spirit Days and events at the high school throughout that week and are inviting the entire student body to participate with them.

Article originally posted in the CaloosaBelle

Congratulations to...

Five people from the Administrative Office of the Courts graduated from the Florida Certified Public Manager (CPM) program. The ceremony took place virtually on September 17, 2020. Those graduating were: Keith McGovern, Greg Morris, Natalie Perez, Dawn Oliver, and Elisa Avellana.

CPM graduation is the culminating event of a rigorous program of study designed to improve the effectiveness of public managers. Overall, nearly 600 people graduated the CPM program last summer—in four separate ceremonies. That's that most graduates ever. There are approximately 7,200 CPM graduates in Florida, more than any other state.



Chief Judge McHugh swore in Judge Robert Branning and Judge Devin George as judicial liaisons to the Lee County Bar. Judicial liaisons are judges attorneys can reach out to regarding problems, ideas, and suggestions. Also, attorneys can provide compliments or complaints with what is going on in courtrooms.



Michelle Lanier retired from her position as a Glades County Probation Officer in May 2021. She's been in the position since 2009 and has worked for Glades County since 1997.



Judge Archie Hayward was presented the Pro Bono Superstar Advocacy Award by the Lee County Bar Association for his superior leadership, dedication, and commitment to increasing access to justice.



Alonzo Laster, Senior Probation Officer, retired from the AOC in February 2021. Mr. Laster dedicated 36 years to the Administrative Office of the Courts/Lee County Probation. Mr. Laster served an integral role being the point of contact as it relates to VOP hearings, serving as the primary court presenter and training many probation officers to follow his lead, amongst many other initiatives throughout his years. He will be greatly missed. We appreciate his commitment to the division, his friendship, leadership and daily enthusiasm.



“What does it mean to do the right thing?” Felony Circuit Judge Robert Branning spoke at the January 2021 Do the Right Thing award presentation. The program is put on by the Lee County Sheriff’s Office. It spotlights students at Lee County schools who make good decisions and positive choices—such as volunteering, showing good character, or a selfless act.



Judge Branning zoomed in to discuss the court system and Constitution with 7th grade social studies at Babcock Neighborhood School in December 2020.

Local Government Representatives sworn-in



Hendry County Tax Collector Pat Langford was sworn in for another term on Monday, Jan. 4, by Judge James Sloan.

Judge Jack Lundy with Gail A. Jones – Glades County Tax Collector; Aletris Farnam – Glades Supervisor of Elections; Lorie Ward – Glades County Property Appraiser; Tami Pearce Simmons – Glades Clerk of the Circuit Court; and Jenny Allen – Glades County School Board



On Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, Hendry County Judge Darrell Hill swore in Hendry County Sheriff Steve Whidden.

Judge Mary Evans swears in Charlotte County Clerk of Court Roger Eaton.



2021 Hurricane Outlook

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is predicting another above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. Forecasters predict a 60% chance of an above-normal season, a 30% chance of a near-normal season, and a 10% chance of a below-normal season. However, experts do not anticipate the historic level of storm activity seen in 2020.

For 2021, a likely range of 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 5 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher) is expected. NOAA provides these ranges with a 70% confidence. The Atlantic hurricane season extends from June 1 through November 30.

"Now is the time for communities along the coastline as well as inland to get prepared for the dangers that hurricanes can bring," said Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "The experts at NOAA are poised to deliver life-saving early warnings and forecasts to communities, which will also help minimize the economic impacts of storms."

"Although NOAA scientists don't expect this season to be as busy as last year, it only takes one storm to devastate a community," said Ben Friedman, acting NOAA administrator. "The forecasters at the National Hurricane Center are well-prepared with significant upgrades to our computer models, emerging observation techniques, and the expertise to deliver the life-saving forecasts that we all depend on during this, and every, hurricane season."

Last year's record-breaking season serves as a reminder to all residents in coastal regions or areas prone to inland flooding from rainfall to be prepared for the 2021 hurricane season.

<https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/noaa-predicts-another-active-atlantic-hurricane-season>



To assist you in planning and preparing for a storm you may find the following websites helpful. Share these with your friends and family to ensure that they're prepared.

Ready.gov - <https://www.ready.gov>

National Hurricane Preparedness - <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness>

Florida Department of Emergency Management - <https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/>

My Safe Florida Home - www.mysafe florida.org

American Red Cross - <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html>

Circuit Times Newsletter

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The Lee County Bar

If you have pictures or a story to share, please email
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*For more information about the
Twentieth Judicial Circuit visit our
website at www.ca.cjis20.org*



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