



# The Circuit Times

**Points of Interest:**

- Court Management Training
- Profile Judge Mañalich
- Sheriff Mike Scott
- Doug Wilkinson
- Chief Justice visits the 20th
- 2nd DCA judges visit
- Mock trial competition

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## Court Management Training 20th Partnership with Institute for Court Management a first for Florida

The 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit has launched an exciting new Court Management Training certification program (CMP) through a unique partnership with the National Center for state Courts, Institute for Court Management (ICM). The 20th will be the first Circuit in Florida to launch this type of court management training program with ICM. The circuit will partner with the National Center for State Courts, Williamsburg, VA. to make nationally recognized court management training available on-site to court managers, judges and staff as a means of enhancing the skills of current and future court management leaders in the 20<sup>th</sup> circuit.

The AOC (Administrative Office of the Courts) will contract with ICM to provide a series of five Phase I core management courses over the three-year period of 2005-2007. Phase II will consist of a one week capstone seminar to be completed in 2007.

Judges and managers will apply to attend either individual courses of interest or for admission to the full CMP certification. The courses offered in Phase I of the program will be 3-4 days each covering the following areas:

- Family Case flow Management
- Fundamentals of Case Management
- Human Resource Management
- Court Performance Standards
- Managing Court Financial Resources
- Court Technology Management

The Phase II Seminar combines elements of leadership, management techniques and specific court management issues to integrate court management competencies. Completion of Phase I and a written court program improvement project is required to attend Phase II. The concluding seminar culminates in a formal graduation at the National Center for State Courts and award of the CMP certification.

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### Court Management Training Program

**Phase I (Core Courses)**

- Family Case flow Management - April 2005
- Fundamentals of Case Management (Web) - May 2005
- Human Resource Management - June 2005
- Court Performance Standards - January 2006
- Managing Court Financial Resources - April 2006
- Court Technology Management - October 2006

**Phase II Concluding CMP Seminar - April 2007**

## Profile: Judge Mañalich

The life story of Collier County Judge Ramiro Mañalich is that of an immigrant family living the American Dream. Ramiro's parents, Ramiro Senior and Mercedes Mañalich, fled Cuba and the communist regime of Fidel Castro for Miami in 1960 with their 1 and 1/2-year-old son and the clothes on their backs. Like so many who fled Cuba in the early 1960's, Ramiro Senior was a professional, a lawyer who practiced at a Havana law firm that represented many U.S. businesses. The family was prohibited by the Castro regime from bringing any assets to the United States. Lacking resources, Ramiro's father was not able to return to school and study law in the US.

For the next five years the family remained in Miami, living three blocks from the Orange Bowl. Ramiro's dad was the only member of the family who spoke English and during that time took any job he could find to support the family. Finally, he was able to obtain a job teaching Spanish at Concordia College in Moorehead, Minnesota. The family arranged to live across the Red River in Fargo, North

Dakota. Traveling in a Volkswagen Bug, they arrived in Fargo on Labor Day in 1965. They were well received by the community and given assistance by the Lutheran Church. When Ramiro began kindergarten he spoke no English. Ramiro's father taught Spanish at Concordia College and later became a Spanish instructor at North Dakota State University in Fargo. He spent summers teaching at Luther College

in Decorah, Iowa. In 1968, Ramiro's dad moved the family to LaCrosse, Wisconsin where he taught at the State University. Ramiro Senior retired as Professor Emeritus of Spanish. He published a textbook on Hispanic Civilization and Culture used in five countries and he traveled throughout the Midwest speaking against the Castro government in Cuba.

Ramiro's parents were very supportive of his education as well

as his interest in sports. Throughout his high school and college years his parents traveled with him to tennis tournaments. Ramiro was the number 1 player on both his high school and college tennis teams. He was ranked number 8 in men's singles tennis in Wisconsin and number 5 in men's doubles in the late 1970's.

Ramiro earned his Bachelor of Arts with highest honors in May 1980 from UW-LaCrosse. He studied law at Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee earning his Juris Doctor in May 1984.

*"The life story of Collier County Judge Ramiro Mañalich is that of an immigrant family living the American Dream."*

While attending college and law school, Ramiro served as a law clerk in the firm of Bosshard and Associates in LaCrosse from January 1979 through August 1979 and at the firm of Robert Silverstein and Associates in Milwaukee from May 1982 through August 1982.

In June 1984, Ramiro took

*(Continued on page 4)*



## 2005 off to a Busy Start for Lee Sheriff

*By Sheriff Mike Scott*

The year 2005 is off to a very busy start, already your Lee County Sheriff's Office has responded to more than 41,000 calls for service. Explosive growth in our community has gripped every facet of our infrastructure. Planning is underway to expand our Youth Services Unit as new schools are constructed and completed. The renovations and expansion under way at the Lee County Justice Center will generate a need for

growth in our Court Security Unit. A new, multi-level detention facility at the Ortiz Avenue site of our current stockade is in the final stages of planning and will require a significant increase in Corrections Officers.

The Sheriff's headquarters located on Six-Mile Cypress is augmented by four (4) primary district sub-stations (North, South, East, and West). We are working with Lee County Facilities

Management to establish a new Central District along the US 41 corridor as growth continues to expand to the county line in every direction

I am humbled to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of Lee County, and will continue to work hard and set the tone for a more focused, responsive Sheriff's Office.



# Saying Goodbye to an Old Friend

The last time I had a formal sit down luncheon with my dear friend Doug Wilkinson was fifteen years ago. I had quit the private practice of law three weeks earlier and wasn't doing much when I got Doug's call. We met at the Veranda and it was not long before he asked the question: "How do you like retirement?" "To tell you the truth," I said, "I'm bored to tears." He smiled ever so slightly, for he knew the answer beforehand. "I may have something to keep you busy," he said. A week later I began working with Doug for then Chief Judge Thomas Reese.

It was a small gesture, but still the kind of thing most folks don't find time to do. I have come to learn first hand over the years that those small gestures, the ones that help others but draw no attention to the helper, are typical of Doug Wilkinson. In fact, they are in every fiber of his being.

We lost Doug Wilkinson to complications from diabetes on Wednesday, March 9. Over the last few years, Doug wrestled mightily with the ravages of the disease, but the amazing thing was that no matter how bad it got (and it got very bad), he still found time to help others, and he derived the most pleasure from doing things anonymously.

For 28 years, Doug was our Court Administrator. It started in 1974 when two judges, John Shearer and David Orosz, plucked



William D. "Doug" Wilkinson, Sr.

Doug out of relative obscurity and convinced their colleagues that he was the only man who could lead our court system out of the dark ages. Doug took the ball and ran with it.

Through Doug's leadership, a small-time court operation evolved into one of the most creative and innovative systems in the State and Country. Our circuit was the first to create a Family Law Division. Under Doug's tutelage, we instituted a divisionalized court system, Domestic Violence Courts, Drug Courts, and many other remarkably successful court annexed programs. During his tenure, circuit judges statewide recognized Doug's inestimable talents for organization and repeatedly asked him to coordinate the semi-annual Circuit Judges Conferences.

Having accomplished so much as Court Administrator, Doug

decided to move on to become the Executive Director of the State Attorney's Office in 2002. Our loss was Steve Russell's gain.

As Doug's battles with his disease became more pitched, I knew that he was not having an easy go of it. Nonetheless, each time I saw Doug, he always found time to ask me how I was doing. In truth, he was always more interested in how things were going in other's lives than he was in speaking about himself. A dry wit, a laconic delivery, and a well-placed joke to lighten the moment were Doug's stock in trade.

But above all else, Doug was a leader of men and women. In a world where people all too readily point fingers at others and are unwilling to admit mistakes, Doug readily admitted his; he accepted blame for his subordinate's failures and never failed to recognize their successes. He was that very rare breed of leader who subscribed to the notion that there is no task that cannot be accomplished so long as no one cares who gets credit for it.

And for all of my professional life as a lawyer in this community, I have come to know that when something good happens in the judicial system, chances are that Doug Wilkinson had a hand in it.

A memorial service was held for Doug at Centennial Park on

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Court Management Training cont.

*(Continued from page 1)*

The Chief Judge and Court Administrator will accept nominations of managers, supervisors and judges for individual courses or for entry to the CMP program. Circuit managers, supervisors and

Administrative Judges may find the courses most relevant. A total of 20 training slots are earmarked for the full CMP program. An additional 20 slots in each training workshop will be made available to non-CMP managers and judges in the circuit.

The initial Family Case flow Management seminar will focus specifically on Family Judges, Case managers and court staff and will be held at the Holiday Inn-Bell Tower in Fort Myers on April 21-22, 2005.



## Profile Judge Mañalich cont.

*(Continued from page 2)*

a position as a staff attorney with the Wisconsin Public Defender's Office in Janesville, Wisconsin where he served until November 1987. During that time he gained valuable experience handling misdemeanor, juvenile, felony, mental commitment and paternity cases.

In January 1988, Ramiro moved to Hollywood, Florida where he joined the law firm of Conroy, Simberg and Lewis, P.A. as an associate attorney representing insurance carriers in worker's compensation cases.

In July 1989, Ramiro returned to the public sector joining the Collier County Attorney's Office as an Assistant County Attorney. In October 1995, he became Chief Assistant County Attorney, where he remained until his appointment to the Collier County Bench by Governor Jeb Bush in September 2003.

Judge Mañalich's professional credentials are outstanding. He has been admitted to practice in Florida, Colorado and Wisconsin and before the US District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin, Middle District of Florida and the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court US Court of Appeals. He is a member of the

American Bar Association and the Wisconsin and Florida Bars. Judge Mañalich served on the Florida Bar Corrections Committee in 1988 and is a current member of the Florida Bar Local Government Law Section. He is Board Certified in City, County and Local Government Law. As a member of the Collier County Bar, he served on the Board of Directors from 1993 -1997 and later was selected to be Secretary, Treasurer, President-elect and President (2000-01). In 2002, Judge Mañalich received the Collier County Bar Association Distinguished Service Award. He served on the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Local Steering Committee on Professionalism. He has also served on the Judicial Independence Committee, Legal Aid Society Committee, Pro Bono Committee and Public Guardianship Committee. In 2003 he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Trial Lawyers Section of the Collier County Bar and is a member of the Inns of Court, Collier County Chapter.

Judge Mañalich is active in community affairs. The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Collier County named Ramiro Hispanic Citizen of the Year for 2004. He currently serves on both the Board of Directors and the United Way of

Collier County. He is a member of the National Alumni Board of Directors for Marquette University Law School and previously was an instructor for Ethics Law training for Collier County Division Administrators, Department Directors and employees. He served as a presiding judge at the Collier County Teen Court and as a presiding judge and scoring judge for the annual Collier County High School Mock Trial Competition.

In his personal life, Judge Mañalich is an avid sports fan (especially Miami Dolphins and Green Bay Packers football) and participates in distance running, swimming and other outdoor recreation. He enjoys music, literature and most importantly, time with his family (wife Jane, their two children Raquel and Gabriella, his mother Mercedes and their adopted Greyhound, appropriately named "Freedom"). Judge Mañalich also appreciates time spent with friends and colleagues from the legal profession.



## Saying Goodbye cont.

*(Continued from page 3)*

Saturday afternoon, March 11, and we had the chance to say goodbye to an old friend. Those of us who knew Doug well will take solace in the fact that his pain is now over. No more tubes or vents, scalpels or syringes.

And during the service, I did not think about the fact that Doug is no longer with us, but rather about what he will probably

be doing on that beautiful day. If I know Doug, he woke up in heaven, had a cup of coffee, lounged around on the couch for a time and watched a fishing show on ESPN. After awhile, he went down to the dock, got in a boat with St. Peter and took him out to the broad salt water to teach him how to fish for snook.

It will be an ideal day for Doug, a day well earned through a lifetime of helping others.

*Stephen E. Hooper*

*This article (with minor modifications) first appeared with our thanks in the Ft. Myers News Press on Saturday, March 11. Reprinted with permission.*





# Sharon Suhar earns certification

Sharon Suhar, Human Resources Manager recently earned certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources.

The certification, awarded by the Human Resource Certification Institute (HRCI), signifies that Sharon possesses the theoretical knowledge and practical experience in human resource management necessary to pass a rigorous examination demonstrating a mastery of the body of knowledge in the field.

“Certification as a human resource professional clearly demonstrates a commitment to personal excellence and to the human resource profession,” said Susan Meisninger, SPHR, President and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). HRCI awards three levels of



Sharon Suhar, SPHR Human Resources Manager

certification: Professional in Human Resources (PHR), Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and Global Professional in Human Resources (GPHR).

To become certified, an

applicant must pass a comprehensive examination and demonstrate a strong background of professional human resource experience.



HRCI is the credentialing body for human resource professionals and is affiliated with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the world’s largest organization dedicated exclusively to the human resource profession. The Institute’s purpose is to promote the establishment of professional standards and to recognize professionals who meet those standards.



# Building Careers through Education

Education is the foundation upon which careers are built. While it may sound cliché, it is true that it is never too late to obtain an education or to continue one.

Sharon Ragoonanan and Betty Cruz did exactly that. Both ladies graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from International College on December 22, 2004.

Sharon Ragoonanan, NCIC/FCIC Operator in Lee County Probation began her career in the court system as a receptionist in Court Administration in April of 1999. In between she did a stint in the Staff Attorneys Office.

Sharon is a single mom to a sixteen-year-old daughter who will graduate from Fort Myers High

School this year. Sharon began her studies in the fall of 2001, completing her degree requirements in less than three years.

requirements in the spring of 2007. Sharon’s ultimate goal is to earn a PHD in Psychology and apply her knowledge and skills in the criminal justice field.



Sharon Ragoonanan, NCIC/FCIC Operator



Betty Cruz, Program Specialist Domestic Violence

Betty Cruz is a Program Specialist in the pressure cooker we call Domestic Violence. Betty a married mom with a family and home to care for as well as a full time job graduated on the same day as Sharon. She is the mother of four children ages 14, 19, 24 and 26 and has three grandchildren. With a 14 year old at home and a 19 year old away at college, Betty has

her hands full. Sharon is now enrolled in the Masters program at International College and is on tract to complete her degree

her hands full. Betty began her education at SW Florida College where she earned her Associates of Science in Criminal

# Court Technology: *Help from the Geeks*

By Craig McLean, Court Technology Officer

*Court employees frequently ask us questions regarding their home computers  
This is a compilation of the most frequently asked questions about home computers.*

## 1. Why do I get so many Spam e-mails?

Spammers harvest e-mail addresses in various ways including scanning chat rooms, searching the Web, and buying online mailing lists. That's probably how they found you in the first place. What to do? Be Careful... Be cautious about offering your main e-mail address. You can use another email address when participating in news-groups, chat rooms, message boards, online sweepstakes, etc. You can either set up another one on a service like hotmail or sometimes your Internet provider will provide you with more than one mailbox. Slow Down... Don't automatically give out your e-mail address online when making an online purchase or signing up for any type of service. Look for a checkbox that asks you if it's okay to send other offers to you. Check no! Read the Website's privacy policy before joining any message group or making an online purchase. Find out if the company will sell your e-mail address to other vendors. Don't Answer! Never reply to spam, even with an "unsubscribe" message. Spammers just use your response to confirm that your e-mail address is valid. Get other tips on actively fighting Spam from <http://spamcon.org/>.



## 2. Why do I get undeliverable messages back from people I haven't sent email to?

Justice and Paralegal studies. She then enrolled in International College in the fall of 2003 completing the requirements for her BS in December 2004.

Betty says "I have a wonderful husband and daughter who pitched in and helped at home enabling me to study". Like Sharon,



Betty has enrolled in the Masters program at International College,

Sometimes a person who has your email address in their address book will be infected with a virus or Trojan horse. These malicious programs take these addresses and send out mail that is "spoofed" with your address. When these hit undeliverable addresses, you get the bounce notification although you never sent one out.

## 3. How do I get rid of those \$%^& Popups?

Popups are probably the most annoying invention since Don Ho's Christmas album. Your technology department faces them every day here in the 20<sup>th</sup> circuit. Enough of these popup programs will eventually bring the fastest computer to its knees. The easiest way to get rid of them is not to get them. Be very careful when you go the internet and if one pops up, examine it carefully, because

*"Run Anti-Virus protection on your home computer and keep it up to date."*

clicking what you think is no to a question might very well install the Popup on your computer. Rather right click on your task bar (little bar at the bottom of your screen) and bring up "task manager." Pick the process that

matches the popup and hit the end task button on the bottom of the window. There are free programs that will help, among those we use here in the 20<sup>th</sup> is a product called AD-Aware, located at <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/>. Read the instructions carefully and you should be able to run this program and it will help. Lastly, Run Anti-Virus protection on your home computer and keep it updated.



## Building Careers cont.

which she hopes to complete in June of 2006. Her future plans are to continue working in the court system and apply her education in either the State Attorney's Office or to become a Judicial Assistant.



# Around the Circuit

## Chief Justice Visits

Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara J. Pariente visited the 20th Judicial Circuit on February 18. The Chief Justice addressed a joint meeting of the Collier and Lee County Bar Associations held at the Registry Resort in Naples.

Prior to the lunch meeting



Chief Justice Barbara J. Pariente, Center; Kelly Price, President Collier County Bar Association, right; William Hazzard, Treasurer, Collier County Bar Association, left.

Chief Justice Pariente held a meet-

ing with the 20th Judicial Circuit Family Law Judges.

## 2nd DCA Holds Oral Arguments in Hendry County

A three-judge panel from the Second District Court of Appeals (Chief Judge, Chris W. Altenbernd, James W. Whatley and Darryl C. Casanueva) visited Hendry County on March 3 and 4 to hear oral arguments. In honor of the occasion the Hendry/ Glades Bar Association sponsored a BBQ, including live

entertainment at the historic Capt. Hendry House owned by the City of Labelle. In addition to the members of the DCA, guest included: Chief Judge Hugh Hayes, Judges Cary, Hardt, Sloan and Lundy, Hendry County Clerk of Courts, Barbara

Butler, Glades County Clerk of Courts Joe Flint, Steve Russell, State Attorney and Bob Jacobs, Public Defender.



Members of the 2nd DCA  
Left to right—Chief Judge, Chris W. Altenbernd, Judge James W. Whatley and Judge Darryl C. Casanueva

Members of the fourteen judge 2<sup>nd</sup> DCA frequently visit the communities within the jurisdiction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> DCA (6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuits) to

hear oral arguments, interact with the local bar and judges, and conduct educational programs. A three-judge panel will visit Collier and Lee Counties later this year.

## Other Happenings

*(Continued on page 8)*

# Workplace Safety

By Lee Gossick

Court Administration's Safety Committee is dedicated to keeping the employees of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit safe. How can the committee make your workplace healthy and safe? The responsibility rests with all of us. Identifying, assessing and controlling hazards before they result in injury or illness are essential to health and safety. With so many changes taking place in and around our building, we all need to recognize that hazards may exist and that it is necessary to report them to your department's safety representative or to e-mail the



Safety Committee via Outlook.

There are 12 committed safety members from the various departments within Court Administration who meet quarterly to evaluate the workplace and assess potential hazards. With the leadership and guidance of management, we have a good health and safety program. There are established standards and expectations spelled out in the safety manual.

However, to better inform and train our employees on safety policies and procedures, it is the

goal of the Safety Committee to establish a website by the third quarter. We are all excited about this undertaking and are open to suggestions as to what *YOU* – the employee would find helpful and beneficial. Perhaps you would like to see information on reporting an injury, or maybe helpful safety tips.

You can e-mail the "***Safety Committee***" with your recommendations, or send inter-office mail to me: Lee Gossick in the Family Law Resource Center, Room 1345. Remember, in order to go home after a hard day at work you must remember to: **Think Safe – Be Safe.**



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## Around the Circuit cont.

Ed Flannery retired on January 31 of this year. Ed served as the Court Programs Manager with Court Administration. Prior to joining Court Administration he served many years with the Lee County Clerk of Courts.

The Annual High



Ed Flannery receiving Service Award from Chief Judge Hugh Hayes & Court Administrator Caron Jeffreys

School Mock Trial Competition sponsored by the Lee County Bar Association was held in February at the Lee County Justice Center. Nine teams from four area high



Mock trial underway during High School Mock Trial Competition

schools participated in the competition. A team from Fort Myers High School won the competition.



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