



# THE CIRCUIT TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE 20TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUMMER 2015

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## Judge Michael McHugh Welcomed as Chief Judge

On July 1st, 2015, Judge Michael T. McHugh was welcomed as Chief Judge of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit.

Judge McHugh has been a Circuit Court Judge since 2006 when he was appointed to the bench by former Governor Jeb Bush. He started his legal career as an Assistant State Attorney in Fort Myers where he worked from 1992 to 1995. After leaving the State Attorney's Office, Judge McHugh served as managing attorney for Allstate's Staff Counsel Offices in Fort Myers and Tampa. He received his B.A. in Accounting and his Law Degree from the University of Florida.

Judge McHugh is currently assigned to the Civil Division in Lee County. He has previously served in the Felony, Juvenile and Family Law Divisions. Judge McHugh has served as the Administrative Judge in both the Family Law Division and Civil Division.

After being on the bench for only four years, Judge McHugh was selected as "Jurist of the Year" by the American Board of Trial Advocates Southwest Florida Chapter. He is the second Judge from the Twentieth Circuit to receive the award.

"ABOTA is made up of some of the most well respected trial attorneys there are," said Judge McHugh. "To me that was a pretty big accomplishment because it came from people I respected."

Judge McHugh began preparing for his role as Chief Judge long before taking the bench. While working for Allstate he oversaw two offices and was able to gain experience with Human Resources. He says having been an Administrative Judge also prepared him for his new role.

"I thought that with my background I would be effective with dealing with people and working with people," said Judge McHugh. "I saw it as an opportunity to hopefully effectuate positive change and put things in place that would be good for the judges and circuit and would most importantly be good for our clients which are the public and attorneys who represent them."

While in his position as Chief Judge, one of his goals is to have the judiciary more involved with the public whether it's through bar activities or other activities.

"I think it's important that the judiciary is seen as more accessible and more approachable. I think that a good way to do that is to be involved," said Judge McHugh.

When he isn't on the bench, you might find Judge McHugh teaching undergraduate legal courses at Florida Southwestern State College. Judge McHugh is also very active in community activities, including twice serving as Chair for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity, Uncommon Friends Foundation, Greater Fort Myers Soccer Club and Fort Myers American Little League. He is married to Liane McHugh and has two sons and one daughter.

Judge McHugh is also an avid runner. He ran for the team at Fort Myers High School and at the University of Florida. He recently ran in the Eugene Marathon, will participate in the 2016 Walt Disney World Marathon, and has qualified for the 2016 Boston Marathon.



## Judge Jay B. Rosman Passes Chief Gavel



On June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Judges and staff celebrated Judge Jay Rosman as he prepared to step down as chief judge for the circuit. His Honor has held the position since July 2011. Judge Michael T. McHugh has assumed the role of chief judge for the next two years.

As Chief Judge, each year Judge Rosman met with State Represen-

tatives and State Senators to get to know them, learn from them, and educate them on the courts; what we do, our place in the judicial system matrix and the impact we have in the community. Judge Rosman, along with Judge Margaret Steinbeck, were instrumental in securing funding to attract and retain skilled workers as part of the court employee pay parity plan, which was approved by the Florida Legislature in 2014.

Judge Rosman was also instrumental in moving technology for the circuit forward with the implementation of The Mentis aiSmartBench Judicial Viewers. This technology not only saves money, but also takes savings to the next level with the potential of courtrooms being fully electronic.

During his tenure, the circuit was also given funding for the Foreclosure Backlog Initiative. The plan was implemented in an effort to reduce the backlog of pending foreclosure cases throughout Florida. We saw the number of foreclosures in Lee County drop from approximately 10,000 cases in 2013 to the current pending caseload of approximately 2,000 cases.

Judge Rosman received his BA from Hofstra University and his JD from the University of Akron in 1978. He also has a Masters and Doctors degree from the National Judicial College. He was appointed County Court Judge for Lee County in 1986 and to the Circuit Court Bench in 1992.

## Judge Mary Evans Takes Oath of Office



Before family, friends and attorneys, Collier Circuit Judge Mary Evans took her judicial oath of office on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Lee County Board of County Commissioner Chambers. Second District Court of Appeals Judge Darryl Casanueva gave Judge Evans the oath while her daughter, husband and father held the bible. Her daughter and mother then helped with the enrobing. Chief Judge Jay B. Rosman presided over the ceremony.

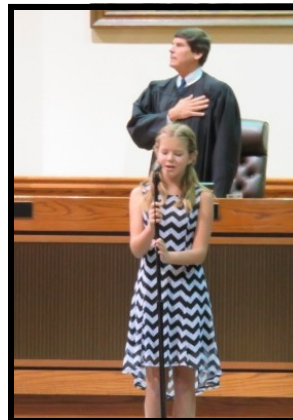
Judge Evans invited three important people to speak on her behalf; her sister Anna Metroka, her brother Paul Krasulski, and her friend and fellow attorney, Vera Bergermann. When it was Judge Evans' turn to speak, the audience learned why she chose her family to be a huge part of the ceremony.

"My family is behind me all the way," said Judge Evans. "I wouldn't have it any other way, being a member of this tight knit loving family is what inspires me in life and what makes me a good fit on the family bench and I

look forward to serving in that position for many years to come."

Judge Evans was elected to the Circuit Court bench by the voters of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit in 2014. Prior to taking the bench, she was an attorney practicing with two different prominent Southwest Florida family law firms before starting her own private family law practice in 2011. She currently presides over the Unified Family Court in Collier County.

"I sincerely thank all of you for taking time out of your busy lives to come and celebrate this day with me, but if you excuse me I've gotta fly," said Judge Mary Evans.



*Mackenzie Wolf sings National Anthem*

*Judge Evans shares a few words after her enrobing*



## DCA Judges in Lee County for Law Week



*From Left to Right: Judge Craig Villanti, Judge Martha Crenshaw and Judge Matthew Lucas*



*Second DCA Judges and a group of students*

Three Judges from the Second District Court of Appeals visited Lee County for their annual visit during Law Week 2015.

Judge Craig Villanti, Judge Martha Crenshaw and Judge Matthew Lucas met with students from East Lee County High School, Ida S. Baker High School, Cape Coral High School, Island Coast High School, and South Fort Myers High Schools. Students asked the Judges questions about the appellate courts and learned the difference between the various levels of courts. The judges then presided over Oral Arguments, which the students also observed.

Law Week is put on every year by the Lee County Bar Association and is chaired by The Honorable John Carlin.

## Collier's Criminal Division Director Retires



*Chuck Rice gives heartfelt speech to Debbie Offutt at Retirement Party*

"She is not replaceable," said Chuck Rice.

Strong words spoken by Collier County Administrative Services Manager Chuck Rice as he said goodbye to one of his closest colleagues.

"There are a lot of people here I have learned from, I couldn't have done it without everybody. We have grown and it's amazing what has happened here. It will be really sad. It's bittersweet," said Debbie Offutt

After 33 years with Court Administration and 35 years with Collier County, Debbie Offutt has retired from

her position as Collier County's Criminal Division Director. She was joined by Lee and Collier probation officers, Court Administration staff, judges, and State Attorney Steve Russell at her retirement party on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Before relocating to Florida, Offutt attended American University in Washington D.C. She then came right to work as a Paralegal/Investigator for the State Attorney's Office. In 1981, Offutt joined the AOC as one of the first Probation Officers in Collier. She was one of only four people who made up the entire department.

While part of the AOC, she has been a Probation Officer, Director of Probation, Senior Probation Officer, and the Director of the Criminal Division.

After taking some time off to vacation, you might find her back at the courthouse. "I'm addicted to the criminal justice system," said Offutt.

Offutt says she will miss the judges and going to court, but her favorite part of her job was working with the probationers. "I liked going to home visits, jails, dealing with road deputies, and also dealing with the people," said Offutt. "My clients have made an impact on my life."

Offutt's last day was May 29<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Nichols has been chosen to replace her as the Criminal Division Director in Collier. He was formerly the Deputy Criminal Division Director in charge of Probation in Lee County.



## Magistrate Gilberto Perez Sworn In



Chief Judge Jay B. Rosman swears in Magistrate Gilberto Perez.

Fort Myers Attorney Gilberto Perez was sworn in on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by The Honorable Jay Rosman to work as a Magistrate in Lee County. Prior to taking the magistrate bench, Perez had his own Marital and Family Law practice and was also an attorney at Henderson Franklin in the firms Divorce, Marital and Family Law division in Fort Myers. Perez also worked at the State Attorney's Office, as an assistant attorney general and as a legal aid attorney.

"After having practiced law for over twenty years, this seemed like the

next logical step in the progression of my career. I also wanted to return to public service," said Magistrate Perez.

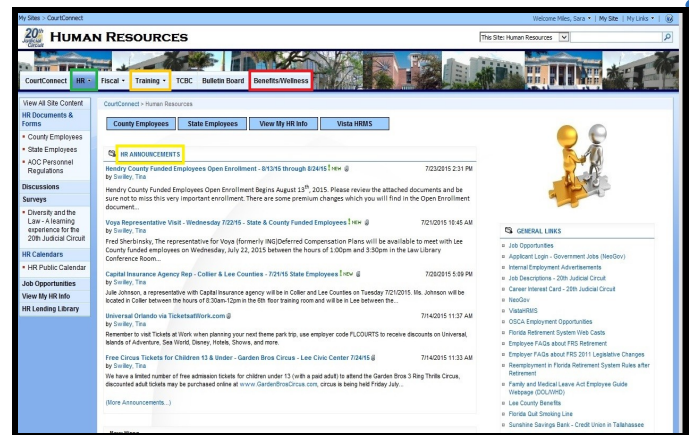
For the past 13 years Perez has proudly served Southwest Florida. The Miami native is a Past President of the Association of Family Law Professionals and serves on the board of the Laboratory Theater. He received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Florida International University and his law degree from University of Notre Dame. Perez fills the seat vacated by Marianne Kantor who is now a Child Support Hearing Officer.

## Connect with Court Connect

Missed a benefits representative visit or open enrollment period? Planning a getaway and interested in discounts? Did you know there is a LOT more on CourtConnect than leave request forms? In fact, employees may be surprised to find just how much information is available to them by simply exploring the AOC intranet site; CourtConnect. The Human Resources Team regularly posts information on the HR, Training, and Benefits/Wellness pages, so you are encouraged to utilize this great resource and ensure you are aware of the beneficial opportunities for you and/or your family!

All AOC employees have a shortcut on their desktop for CourtConnect, the latest news headlines, birthdays, events, links of interest, and documents are available to choose from. On the **HR page** there are many useful links as well as County and State tabs which contain specific information for both County or State funded employees respectfully. Next time you log on to CourtConnect, be sure to visit the **HR main page** and not just the County or State drop downs; it is on this main HR page that you will find important announcements posted often by the HR Team. In addition to benefit representative visits, you will find there are benefit update information, Payroll updated, discount websites, an AOC Employee Discounts list, and all AOC Personnel Regulations, and links to other related resources, just to name a few.

The **Benefits/Wellness** page is also updated by the HR team with those announcements that are specifically benefit related, so if you prefer not to scroll through all the



discounts and it is benefits on your mind, simply visit that page instead.

The **Training** page lists any scheduled training as well as the ability to sign up for scheduled training right from CourtConnect. In addition to any scheduled training, the HR Lending Library link is located on this page, so if you are interested in expanding your knowledge, visit the lending library where you will find in addition to books, there are DVD's, Audio CD's, and Manuals.

Besides visiting the intranet, you can also sign up to receive alerts for specific updates or changes, alerts are emailed to you and simply inform you that there has been an update or change for the specific topic you are signed up to be alerted about. To do so, visit CourtConnect and at the top right of the page click on your name (**Welcome Name, Name**), then go to **My Settings > My Alerts**, and then **Add Alert**.

## Lee County Launches Veterans Court Docket

Lee County's Twentieth Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court team was granted the opportunity to begin a pilot project for a Veterans Track specialty court on May 14th, 2015. Veterans only dockets act as a "one-stop shop," linking veterans with the programs, benefits and services they have earned.

"The Mission of the Lee County Veterans Track (LCVT) is to promote public safety while supporting eligible veterans and their families through a coordinated effort among veterans services, community services and the Court to leave no veteran behind," said Judge Andrew Swett.

The Honorable H. Andrew Swett, the presiding Veterans Track Judge, served as the master of ceremony for the events which started with a presentation of colors and donation of six service flags by the VFW Dist. 13 and Post 10097. The initial court session was attended by Veterans Service Officer Michael E. Grussemyer and Commander of VFW District 13 Bill Polverari. Also in attendance were Dr. Elsa Zayas and Bridget Smith from the Veterans Health Care Clinic in Cape Coral, and all members of the Veterans Track team. As the special guest speaker, Bay Pines VA Healthcare System Chief of Social Work and former member of the US Marine Corps L. Harrison Reeder spoke about the challenges veterans face when they return home.

"Many of us find ourselves in need of assistance and we have a lot of problems; and courts like this are designed to help our veterans get back on their feet," said L. Harrison Reeder. "It is not the intent to get anyone out of the responsibilities of their actions, but hopefully to get them on a track to get them to a much better place."

Four veterans were accepted into the program as the first participants of the Lee County Veterans Track Program.

### How it works

During the court docket, The Veterans Health Administration's Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, or VJO, Mr. James Garnett is present with a laptop computer able to access vital treatment records, make treatment appointments, and communicate this information to the court. Veterans Service Organizations and State Departments of Veterans Affairs assist veterans with additional local and state resources, while volunteer Veteran Mentors provide morale and motivational support. These team members are not employed by the criminal justice system and normally would not be present at the courthouse.

Consolidating justice-involved veterans onto a single docket permits these individuals to actively support those in need of their help. The State Attorney's office is responsible for reviewing any referrals received through an eligible veteran's attorney or public defender. Both misdemeanor and felony charges will be considered, with the utmost regard for public safety as their main priority.



## Judge Lauren Brodie Awarded Woman Lawyer of the Year



Circuit Judge Lauren L. Brodie has been named Woman Lawyer of the Year by the Collier County Women's Bar Association (CCWBA). Her Honor was presented the award during the Annual Installation Luncheon on June 24, 2015 in Naples. The CCWBA Woman Lawyer of the Year award is presented annually to a female lawyer who has excelled in her career, overcome stereotypes, and promoted the status of women in the legal profession.

Earlier this year, Judge Brodie was one of six women recognized as an Extraordinary Woman Leader in the State of Florida by the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL). This award highlights the accomplishments of women lawyers who displayed vision, courage and passion in their community. Judge Brodie was chosen for her dedication and commitment in creating Drug Free Collier where she served as its first President from 2005-2009. During her tenure, she created the Annual Community Awareness Luncheon and established several initiatives, including Operation Medicine Cabinet. Judge Brodie currently

serves on Drug Free Collier's Leadership Council.

Judge Brodie was a Senior Judge throughout the Twentieth Judicial Circuit until her appointment to the Circuit Court bench by Governor Jeb Bush in 2001. Prior to relocating to Naples, Judge Brodie served as a Circuit Court Judge for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit from 1995-1998 and as a County Court Judge in Miami-Dade County from 1991-1994. She also served as the Assistant City Attorney of the City of North Miami Beach from 1983-1990.

## Training Promotes Diversity in the Workplace

*"We may have different religions, different languages, different colored skin, but we all belong to one human race."*

*-- Kofi Annan*

What do jelly beans and eggs have in common? Besides both being ovoid and popular during Spring they were used to symbolize diversity during the "Diversity and Law" training workshops put on by the Administrative Office of the Courts Human Resources team. More importantly they showed participants that you shouldn't judge something or someone by what you see on the outside.

The training was required for all AOC team members. The goal of this particular training was to educate the AOC team about diversity and inclusion. The ultimate goal of these workshops is to enhance our work environment in which the court draws on employees' unique culture, professional, and personal experiences, and skills to ensure that all AOC employees have the opportunity to contribute to the mission and objectives of the court.

J. Lenora Bresler (*left*) led each of the seven workshops which lasted four hours during a four-day span in early June. Ms. Bresler is an Attorney, Human Resource professional, Leadership Consultant, Speaker and author specializing in motivation, change, and conflict resolution. Employees worked in groups and in pairs to talk about their own personal experiences with diversity and inclusion. One experiment involved picking your

favorite and least favorite jelly beans, but then only to find out what was on the inside isn't what people expected. Human Resources goal is that employees, as a result of attending the workshops, can define diversity and its various dimensions, can agree that the AOC is a diverse organization based upon the definition learned in the workshop, able to describe at least two diversity opportunities and two diversity challenges that affect the operation of the courts, and have the ability to identify strategies and techniques for communicating effectively with others who are different.

But the employee development doesn't stop here. Looking toward the future, HR is currently working on offering training in the areas of Purposes and Responsibilities of Courts, customer service, ethics, and pertinent employment law topics such as FMLA and ADA. There are also employees currently going through the Certified Public Manager Program (CPM) training taking place with ten AOC team members participating with an expected graduation date in the Fall of 2016, and we just concluded an online web-based training on Preventing Sexual Harassment for all AOC team members.





## Mediation and Arbitration Appreciation Dinner



On April 16th, The Arbitration and Mediation Advisory Board hosted its 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Appreciation Dinner. The dinner is put on each year to thank the volunteers who devote countless hours to Mediation and Juvenile Arbitration throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

More than 50 mediators, arbitrators, judges and friends attended the event hosted by Alternative Dispute Resolution/Civil Manager Jack Hughes and the Honorable James Adams.



Those who received awards for their years of service were:

- David Abercrombie : 5 Years
- Darryll Baucher : 5 Years
- Wanda Krolikowski : 5 Years
- Dennis Leffert : 5 Years
- Harold Guralnick : 10 Years
- Ann Sell : 10 Years
- John Stanley : 10 Years
- Don Evans : 15 Years
- John Traube : 25 Years



## Lee County Pre-Trial Services Receives Reaccreditation

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, the Lee County Pretrial Services Department was awarded its second re-accreditation by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission. The department received its initial accreditation in 2009 and is re-evaluated every three years.

Accreditation covers six sections: Personnel Practices, Organization and Management, General Principles Governing the Pretrial Process, First Appearance, Release Conditions and Electronic Monitoring. Assessors evaluate the agency against standards developed by the commission, the Association of Pretrial Professionals of Florida (APPF) and the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA). These standards emphasize evidence based practices in line with the America Bar Association (ABA) principles.

### Benefits of Accreditation:

- Allows for independent verification of business practices
- Promotes organizational and individual self-assessment, resulting in accountability
- Standards reinforce legislative intent
- Increases integrity of the criminal justice process and the agency's role
- Increases judicial confidence in use of program services



*(L to R): Pretrial Supervisor Scott Peckham, Criminal Division Director Liza Maldonado, Pretrial Services Supervisor Ervin Gill, Pretrial Officer/Case Manager Candy Caughey, and Deputy Criminal Division Director Amy Kinsey.*

- Enhances morale by increasing confidence in the effectiveness and efficiency of one's own agency and emphasizes on professionalism, excellence and competence of staff
- Standards foster education resulting in agency improvements
- Ensures policies and procedures are consistent with best practices

## Lee County Celebrates Pretrial and Probation Week

During the week of July 12th through the 18th, 2015, Lee County's Criminal Division recognized the work that pretrial and probation supervision professionals do for our public safety. Pretrial services programs have the unique responsibility to interview, investigate and supervise individuals involved in the criminal justice system prior to adjudication. These officers maintain positive, dedicated attitudes day-to-day with individuals facing criminal charges. "I can't thank you enough for helping our clients get to the right place to get the treatment they need so they won't come back into the system," said Public Defender Kathy Smith during the appreciation lunch.

In Lee County, there are about 2,700 active probationers on Lee County Probation. The average success rate is approximately 63%. During fiscal year 2013-14, there were approximately 2,400 placed on Pretrial Supervision. The average success rate is approximately 77%.

"You all do the really hard part of it. The Pretrial and the supervision part is incredibly difficult," said Chief Assistant State Attorney Amira Fox. "I know Kathy Smith and I both recognize that and we appreciate it every day. The system could not work effectively without you."



## Judge Janeice Martin Honored



Collier County Judge Janeice Martin was honored at The Florida Bar's Annual Convention on June 24, 2015 with a selection into the 2015 Class of Leaders in Law. Florida Association of Women Lawyer's Leaders in the Law award recognizes women who have made significant impacts in their communities. The recognition is intended to promote who have made meaningful contributions in their communities through their legal service or volunteer activities and who have provided a positive role model for FAWL members. FAWL solicited chapter nominations of members who have earned the re-

spect of their peers, participated in activities for the betterment of the local community, exemplified the qualities of a positive role model, and advocated for the advancement of women in the legal profession. Judge Martin was selected by her peers at the Collier County Women's Bar Association as someone who possesses those qualities.

Judge Martin has previously been awarded the 2007 Woman Lawyer of the Year by the Collier County Women's Bar and received the 2006 Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award.

## Collier County Recognizes Drug Court Month

Drug Courts focus on reducing crime and saving money through a program of intensive intervention and treatment for addicts in the Criminal Justice System. For the month of May, Collier County Commissioners and Naples City Council applauded those efforts by declaring May as National Drug Court Month.

Judge Janeice Martin and the Collier County Drug Court team appeared before both the commissioners and council to receive the proclamations. This was an important distinction for the area due to drug addiction being a community-wide problem, which requires a community-wide response. The proclamation states that drug-related crime causes hundreds of thousands of dollars of losses each year to



Collier County's residents, businesses and government.

Research shows that drug courts are a viable means in lieu of incarceration and serve as an effective

strategy at reducing recidivism. On average, drug court participants are re-arrested significantly less often after the program than before the program. Overall, findings indicate that participation in a drug court program tends to reduce not only drug crimes, but also serves as a means to reduce substance abuse.

Drug Courts achieve these goals by emphasizing accountability, honesty and personal responsibility on the part of the addict. Treatment and supervision professionals aim to help these individuals find a lasting recovery that allows them to repair their relationships, make whole their victims, and become contributing members of society.



## Judicial and Staff Training

### *NDCI provides training to Drug Courts Circuit-Wide*

The Lee County Pretrial Services Department hosted an operational tune-up for drug courts circuit-wide (Lee, Collier, Charlotte) on April 13-14, 2015 via a grant through the National Drug Court Institute. The Operational Tune Up is for Drug Court teams that have been in operation for two years or more and focuses on best-practices and practical application.

This opportunity provided not only excellent networking through the circuit, and training on best evidence based practices, but also provided self assessment with team action planning. The plenaries included review of best practices research, science based literature on who should be in the program, phases, incentives and sanctions, and confidentiality, ethical and legal issues.

### *OSCA supports FL Partners in Crisis*

Lee County Judge Leigh Frizzell Hayes, Circuit Judge Andrew Swett, Collier County Judge Janeice Martin, Circuit Judge James Sloan, Collier County Senior Probation Officer Charles Crews, and Lee County Pretrial Officer Ismael Herrera attended the Partners in Crisis training for drug court and mental health court teams May 20-22, 2015 in Orlando funded by the Office of the State Courts Administrator. Florida Partners in Crisis is an education and advocacy organization supporting recovery for individuals with substance abuse disorders and mental illnesses. The conference partners with the Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals, the Florida CIT Coalition and many other organizations for the education sessions and plenaries.

## “Take Your Kids to Work Day” Celebrated in Lee County

For thousands of kids across America, the annual “Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day” may mean a day off from school, but it doesn’t mean a day off from learning. Especially for the 16 kids who came to work with their parents at the Lee County Justice Center on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.



and learned what happens to people after they are arrested. Then, it was time for a lesson in security. Court Security Officer David Toumey (*left*) gave the students a look into the control room, demonstrated the screening process, and showed some of the dangerous items CSO’s confiscate.

Criminal Division staff participated by planning a full day of activities for the students to give them an overview of the criminal justice system. The students aged seven to 17 started the day with introductions by Criminal Division Director Liza Maldonado. Then, it was time to start learning. The group headed to First Appearance where they had fun interacting with Judge Adams



(*left*). His Honor answered questions about what it is like to be a Judge. The students then observed first appearance

The day took them from what happens when you first enter court to what happens inside a courtroom. Lee County Sheriff’s Deputies answered questions about the trial process, a deputy’s job in court and also gave background on jury selection. Following a break for lunch, the Students were given a tour of the Juvenile Justice Center to cap off the day of learning.

While it may be early for some of these kids to know where their careers may take them, the hope is they learn the importance of creating goals they can achieve.



*Criminal Division Director Liza Maldonado with students*

## Children in Court Enjoy Treasure Trove

Thanks to the generosity of a store owner and the help from some Lee County Sheriff's deputies, children in Judge Lee Ann Schreiber's dependency court will continue to have toys to get them through tough times.

Deputy Greg Edison says he was in the right place at the right time when he was approached by Toot's Dollar Store owner, Skip Muffali. Muffali was in the process of closing down the longtime downtown Fort Myers dollar store when he offered to donate nearly \$1,500 worth of toys to Edison to use for a worthy cause. Edison knew that Judge Schreiber gives toys to the children who come to her courtroom and he thought that would be the perfect place for the toys.

Deputy Edison filled up his truck with every toy left in the store and brought them to the courthouse where Sgt. Tracy Price helped sort, box, and organize all of the items. Everything from bats and balls to toy cars, games and dolls for both boys and girls were donated. All of the toys are boxed and being stored in the jury room to courtroom 3-A, as well as some of the closets in the judge's robing room.

The toys are given to the children as sort of a safety blanket while they go through these difficult proceedings with family members. Toys are also used in the children's waiting rooms. Dependency cases relate to children who have been abandoned, abused, or neglected by their parents or legal guardians.

Judge Schreiber expresses a personal thank you to Deputy Edison and Sgt. Price. Court Operations/courtroom security detail in the children's court is especially challenging as it has so many moving parts and people in each case. Courtroom security is an integral part of not only insuring the safety of everyone in the courtroom but also for assisting in the flow of cases on this busy docket. This gesture by Deputy Edison and all Court Operations personnel who assisted, under Sgt. Price's supervision, in sorting and storing the toys shows that they are truly invested in our community and interested in serving the public in ways that would otherwise go unnoticed.



## Security Department Officers Complete Course

Court Security Officers Mike Paradiso, Jim Hill and Tony Figueroa recently completed the Lee County National Alliance on Mental Illness Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training course that was conducted at the Cape Coral Police Department. The course is designed for members of law enforcement, court security, corrections, dispatch, fire, EMS, and probation personnel. CIT trainings have been proven to improve outcomes when interacting with distressed persons with mental illness. Evidence has demonstrated less frequent escalation of force, and decreased injury to respondents and responders.

Training includes an introduction to mental illness, symptom recognition, medication awareness, risk assessment, and skill building scenarios. Officers gain experience in primary and cover roles. At the completion of the course, the officers received a certificate and certifying their 40 hours of training in Crisis Intervention.

"We've been participating in this training for over two years, which has greatly improved the safety and security of the Justice Center Complex" says Director of Court Security Jeff Torain.



L-R: Jim Hill, Mike Paradiso, and Tony Figueroa



## Are You Ready for a Hurricane?

### 1. Be Prepared BEFORE the Emergency

- Develop a family disaster plan (see [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov))
- Develop a disaster supply kit (see [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov))
- Keep your contact information with Human Resources up-to-date
- Keep your information in your division's phone tree up-to-date
- Know your floor monitor.
- Be familiar with the Emergency Evacuation Plan for the court facility in which you work.

### 2. Stay Safe and Informed DURING the Emergency

- Find a safe place—and stay there
- Stay informed using:
  1. The 20th Judicial Circuit web site ([www.ca.cjis20.org](http://www.ca.cjis20.org)) or twitter (@SWFLCourts)
  2. The 20th Judicial Circuit Emergency Hotline 239.335.2299
  3. Local Radio and television stations.
  4. A NOAA weather radio
  5. Be ready to receive and forward information via the phone tree.

### 3. Recover and Restore AFTER the Emergency

- Seek assistance for medical and other personal needs if necessary.
- Stay informed using the available means listed above.
- Follow instructions as provided.

### 4. Recover and Restore Court Operations AFTER the Emergency

- Complete step 3 and insure the safety of your family and property.
- Stay informed using the available means listed above.
- Follow instructions as provided.
- Report to your regular work location or alternate relocation site as directed.

Ready

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

## 2015 Hurricane Outlook

The 2015 Hurricane Outlook was released in April by Dr. Phil Klotzbach and Dr. Bill Gray from the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University. The report states that the 2015 Atlantic hurricane season will likely have much less activity than the median 1981-2010 season. The year's first forecast for 2015 estimates a below-average season, with three hurricanes, eight named storms, 30 named storm days, 10 hurricane days, one major (Category 3-4-5) hurricane and 0.5 major hurricane days. The probability of U.S. major hurricane landfall is estimated to be about 55 percent of the long-period average.

### PROBABILITIES FOR AT LEAST ONE MAJOR (CATEGORY 3-4-5) HURRICANE LANDFALL ON EACH OF THE FOLLOWING COASTAL AREAS:

- 1) Entire U.S. coastline - 28% (average for last century is 52%)
- 2) U.S. East Coast Including Peninsula Florida - 15% (average for last century is 31%)
- 3) Gulf Coast from the Florida Panhandle westward to Brownsville - 15% (average for last century is 30%)

#### HURRICANE WATCH

[www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes)

- Conditions are possible in your area within 48 hours.  
Know your evacuation route & listen to local officials.

#### HURRICANE WARNING

[www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes)

- Conditions are expected in your area within 36 hours.  
Follow evacuation orders from local officials if given.

#HurricanePrep



Ready

#HurricanePrep



Ready



# Circuit Times Newsletter

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Scott Wilsker*

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## Looking Ahead....

Judge Scott Cupp's Investiture  
August 21st at 3:15 p.m.

*For more information about the Twentieth Judicial Circuit visit our website at  
[www.ca.cjis20.org](http://www.ca.cjis20.org)*