

# FULL COURT PRESS

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## Update

by John D. Dew,  
Chief of Trial Court Funding  
Policy Section

## Balanced Justice for Florida

### Revision 7 Implementation

On November 3rd, 1998 the voters approved Revision 7 to the Florida Constitution, amending Section 14 of Article V, to implement change in the funding of the trial courts. The purpose of the revision was to clarify specifically what part of the judicial system would be the funding responsibility of the state and which would be the funding responsibility of the counties. This funding shift is required by the constitutional revision to be “fully effectuated” by July 1, 2004. However, section 25(a), Article XII of the State Constitution provides that ‘commencing with fiscal year 2000-2001, the legislature shall appropriate funds to pay for the salaries, costs, and expenses set forth in amendment to Section 14 of Article V pursuant to a phase-in schedule established by general law’. The 2000 Legislature currently considering legislation to establish a phase-in schedule and set the frame-

work for defining the essential elements of the state court’s system, the public defenders’ offices, the state attorneys’ offices, and court appointed counsel that the state could consider funding. Likewise, the legislation defines those court-related functions that are the responsibility of the counties for funding purposes.

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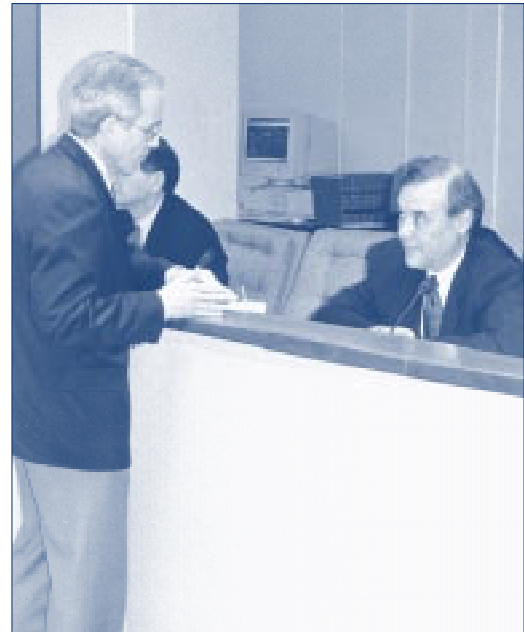
**Revision 7** *from page 1***Bill Moving Through the 2000 Legislature**

The Joint Legislative Task Force on State Court Funding/Article V developed proposed language at its March 22nd meeting which would eventually become Senate Bill 1212 and House Judiciary Proposed Committee Bill 12. Two weeks later, on April 5th, the proposed language as placed in SB 1212 was amended slightly, and passed out of the committee. It is expected that the House Judiciary Committee will agenda PCB 12 for a vote during its meeting the second week of April.

Generally both the House and Senate versions of the bill provide that:

- it is the Legislature's intent to provide a means of funding the constitutionally mandated or essential functions of the state court system, the state attorneys, the public defenders, and the essential court related functions of the clerks of the court.
- the basis for funding those entities required in Article V, Section 14 of the Constitution be based on having reliable and auditable expenditure and revenue data and that court costs, fines, and other dispositional assessments must be enforced and may be directed to the state.
- the Legislature would review the state courts system, offices of the state attorneys and public defenders, and clerks of the courts, during certain years to determine those "elements" appropriate to receive state funding. Language is also included that requires that prior to July 1, 2004 each county must continue to fund existing functions of the state courts system and others consistent with current law and practice.
- the definition of the state court system for purpose of funding includes judges and their essential staff, expenses and costs as provided by general

law, costs related to juries, court reporting necessary to meet constitutional requirements, accommodations for disabled persons, facilities and security for the Supreme Court and District Courts of Appeal, foreign language interpreters and translators, and funding for the Judicial Qualifications Commission.



*Eleventh Circuit Chief Judge Joseph Farina confers with Senator John Laurent, Chair, Task Force on State Court Funding/Article V prior to presenting at the February meeting.*

- the counties would be responsible for funding the specific areas statutorily defined in this bill associated in such areas as facilities, maintenance, utilities, security, communication systems, existing radio systems, and existing multi-agency criminal justice information systems for the trial courts.

## Balanced Justice for Florida

Revision 7  Implementation

Other sections include creating a workgroup to develop recommendations concerning financial accountability systems and standards for use during and after the transition from local to state funding, providing a contingency fund to “cover extraordinary criminal case-related costs” for small counties, creation of pilot programs in three counties for reimbursement for expenses related to reasonable and necessary conflict attorneys, and requirements that the clerks of the court provide specified information on collection and distribution of fines, fees, service charges and other court-related charges collected by the clerks to the Legislature. Finally, the bill establishes the Joint Legislative Task Force on Court Funding in statutes as the Joint Legislative Committee on Article V and provides the committee “coordinate and oversee the implementation of Revision 7 to Article V of the Constitution”. In addition, an amendment was made to the bill during the Senate Judiciary Committee meeting that requires the Judicial Branch to participate in performance-based budgeting to the same extent as any executive branch.

#### Web Site Provides Most Recent Updates

To find the latest updates on this bill, as well as historical information on Revision 7, the Trial Court Funding Policy Section has developed a web page. Go to the Supreme Court web site ([www.flcourts.org](http://www.flcourts.org)) and click on Judicial Administration. From the Judicial Administration page click on Article V/Revision 7 to find the latest information. ☞



*John Dew is Chief of the newly established Trial Court Funding Policy Section. He is responsible for assisting the courts in the Revision 7 implementation. He previously served as the court's Director of Communication and Legislative Relations and also as a Legislative Analyst for the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations as their*

*expert on Article V Funding. He can be reached at (850) 488-8414 or [dewj@flcourts.org](mailto:dewj@flcourts.org).*

## **2000 Legislative Session Fast-Paced for the OSCA**

The 2000 Legislative Session has just reached its half-way mark and already more than 2,500 bills have been filed with additional proposed committee bills still pending. The focus for the judicial branch thus far has been on Article V and the budget, while numerous other issues are continuously monitored by the OSCA. Look for an in-depth review of the 2000 Session and its impact on the courts in the next issue of the *Full Court Press*.

For up-to-date legislative information on bills, recent actions, committee votes, and other news, go to the Florida Legislature's Web site at <http://www.leg.state.fl.us>. Legislative committee staff analyses and impact statements on bills are posted, along with other helpful information. The Legislature's information line is: (850) 488-4371 or Suncom 278-4371.

# Supreme Court Releases Certification Opinion

## 43 Judgeships Certified

by Grant Slayden, Chief of Court Services

The Supreme Court of Florida released the judicial certification opinion, *In Re: Certification of The Need For Additional Judges*, No. SC00-372, on February 29, 2000. The Supreme Court is responsible for determining the need for additional judges or the necessity for decreasing the number of judges required under article V, section 9 of the Florida Constitution. The certification opinion is the Supreme Court's recommendation to the Florida Legislature on the number of judgeships required to meet the workload demand. While a request for 51 new trial court judges were made by the various chief judges, the Supreme Court certified the need for 43 additional trial court judges as follows:

<b>Circuit Court</b>	<b>Judgeships Requested</b>	<b>Judgeships Certified</b>	<b>County Court</b>	<b>Judgeships Requested</b>	<b>Judgeships Certified</b>
First	1	1	Okaloosa	1	1
Second	2	1			
Third	1	1			
Fourth	2	2	Duval	2	1
Fifth	3	2	Lake	1	1
Sixth	2	1	Pasco	1	1
			Pinellas	1	1
Seventh	1	1			
Eighth	1	0			
Ninth	3	3	Orange	1	0
Tenth	1	1	Polk	1	1
Eleventh	3	3			
Twelfth	0	0	Sarasota	1	1
Thirteenth	2	2	Hillsborough	2	2
Fourteenth	1	1			
Fifteenth	3	3	Palm Beach	2	0
Sixteenth	0	0			
Seventeenth	4	4	Broward	2	2
Eighteenth	1	1	Brevard	2	2
Nineteenth	1	1			
Twentieth	2	2			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>

### District Courts of Appeal Judgeships

It is forecast that a total of 21,176 cases will be filed in the district courts in the year 2000, which is less than a one percent decrease from 1998. The district courts of appeal did not submit any requests for additional judges. Further, the district courts of appeal have developed alternative means to assist in resolving the cases brought before them. For these reasons, the Supreme Court stated that it did not certify the need for any additional district court of appeal judgeships.

### Trial Court Judgeships

The Supreme Court certified 43 trial court judgeships. Consistent with previous practice, the Supreme Court placed the greatest weight on quantitative data reflecting the growth and composition of caseloads in the various circuit and county courts. A determination of the workload impact of the differing composition of caseloads was made more accurate this year thanks to the Delphi-based caseload weighting system. Delphi was developed pursuant to a request by the Florida Legislature in proviso language in the 1998 General Appropriations Act.

### High Level of Participation

The overall effort to develop case weights was highly inclusive of judges representing all twenty judicial circuits and every division of court in urban as well as rural jurisdictions. In fact, 218 judges, or 29 percent of all trial court judges, participated in some phase of Delphi. The Delphi Policy Committee (DPC), appointed by the Chief Justice to guide the project, worked closely with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and the OSCA to achieve a successful conclusion. Continuous input was also solicited from chief judges and the Court Statistics and Workload Committee. Further, the Supreme Court, through the OSCA, worked closely with the Office of

Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) throughout this project.

### Reasonable Caseload

The Supreme Court accepted the DPC's recommended "reasonable caseload" standards as the primary basis for certification, with the exception of the weights for the circuit case categories of drugs and dissolution and the county case categories of evictions and civil traffic. The Supreme Court agreed with the consultant's recommendation to conduct further study of these four categories. The Supreme Court, however, accepted the large increase in time for juvenile dependency cases established as "reasonable caseload" by the DPC as a conscious policy choice to increase the priority of, and resources for, these cases. Considerable progress has been made in the handling of cases involving children who may be abused or neglected

over the last several years as the result of comprehensive study, planning, and implementation of reforms through the Dependency Court Improvement Program. The Supreme Court wanted to continue to support these efforts by taking into account the increased workload need. The Supreme Court is also exploring the feasibility of conducting a similar Juvenile Delinquency Improvement Project.

Other factors affecting various case types were either satisfactorily accounted for in the calculus of the time study and the resulting case weights, separately included in a separate calculus to modify Delphi, or consciously excluded from the certification methodology. The bottom line is that the mix of cases in various of Florida's circuit and county courts, when weighted to reflect differential requirements for actual judicial workload, demands considerably more judicial resources than are currently authorized.

### Criteria Found in Rule

The criteria for certification of the need for additional DCA judges are set forth in rule 2.035(b)(2), Fla.R.Jud.Admin., while the criteria for certification of the need for judges in trial courts are set forth in rule 2.035(b)(1), Fla.R.Jud.Admin. One provision of the aforementioned rule is that the Supreme Court "...may also consider any additional information found by it to be relevant to the process." Additional information for the 2000 judicial certification included the Delphi-based caseload weighting system.

# Florida and National Drug Conferences Prepare for National Drug Court Month

by *Eve Janocko, Senior Court Analyst II*

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) has proclaimed May as "National Drug Court Month." The NADCP is asking states to celebrate Drug Court Month in creative ways to showcase these programs. The NADCP plans to recognize the state with the most creative approach during the Sixth Annual Training Conference, June 1-3, 2000, in San Francisco, California.

Chief Justice Harding has encouraged drug court programs at the local level to proclaim May as Drug Court Month by adopting proclamations through their county commissions or local policy boards. Chief Justice Harding stated, "This is an excellent opportunity to highlight and demonstrate the success of Florida's drug courts at the national, state and local levels. One of the things I have been impressed with about drug courts is the encouragement, support and collaboration from private industry and state agencies. Through the drug court model, the judge is cast in a non traditional role which may reflect the future of many areas of the court's jurisdiction. Judges are required to be innovative and use the power of the court to reinforce positive behavior."

Florida is planning a statewide, coordinated drug court graduation on May 18, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. Judge Melanie G. May, Drug Court Judge, Broward County, and Mr. Jim McDonough, Director, Office of Drug

Control Policy, suggested the graduation as part of the Drug Court Month celebration. It is anticipated that Chief Justice Harding, Governor Jeb Bush and possibly General Barry McCaffrey will be in Tallahassee, Tampa, and Ft. Lauderdale, respectively, to address drug court graduates via satellite broadcast from these drug court sites. For those drug court programs that do not have the technical capability to participate through the satellite broadcast, a videotape will be produced with

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**- Chief Justice Harding**

comments from the Chief Justice and Governor to be used during graduation ceremonies. In addition, a proclamation/resolution declaring May as Drug Court Month in Florida will be jointly adopted by Chief Justice Harding and Governor Bush. ♪



*Eve Janocko is a Senior Court Analyst II at OSCA. Her duties include working with drug courts, the Drug Court Steering Committee, SRS, and the Florida Courts Technology Commission. She can be reached at 488-8622.*

# Florida Plans Statewide Conference on Pro Se Litigation

## ***Combining Our Creative Energy to Benefit the Public***

by Chief Justice Major B. Harding

In November 1999, I selected a team of judges, court staff, and bar members from Florida to attend the American Judicature Society's National Conference on Pro Se Litigation in Scottsdale, Arizona. Forty-nine states and all the territories sent teams to the conference, and by all accounts it was a great success. Upon their return, the Florida team made two recommendations: 1) that I establish an Access to Justice Task Force, and 2) that Florida replicate the national conference in order to recreate the enthusiasm and creative energy generated in Arizona.



**Chief Justice  
Major B. Harding**

Upon the team's recommendation, I established the Access to Justice Task Force, directing that they:

- Coordinate Florida's Conference on Pro Se Litigation which shall include teams from each circuit court;
- Develop plans to facilitate local collaborative efforts to ensure that legal services are available and affordable; and
- Make recommendations to the Supreme Court on how to build a system of services that improves access to a fair, timely, and meaningful resolution by informed family law litigants.

With the support of a \$20,000 grant from the State Justice Institute, we have organized Florida's Statewide Conference on Pro Se Litigation to be held in Orlando on May 24-25, 2000. I have asked each circuit to select a team of 10 persons that represent the interests of the legal community to participate in the conference. Each circuit team will consist of the chief judge, a family law judge, the trial court administra-

tor, the family court coordinator, a self-help staff member, a clerk of court, a local bar leader, a family law attorney, a legal aid/service provider, and a community leader. Statewide stakeholders, such as community leaders, bar leaders, and law school deans have also been invited to attend in order to add a different and valuable perspective to conference discussions.

The goal of the conference is to bring stake holders together to learn about the creative ways the Florida judiciary has responded to pro se litigants and to provide a forum that will facilitate a collaborative approach to effectively address the needs of pro se litigants. We will be discussing the challenges self-represented litigants pose to courts and the benefits to judges and court employees of helping pro se litigants prepare for court proceedings. We will also showcase several programs from Florida and other states designed to assist self represented litigants. Finally, we will present a series of concurrent seminars to give the circuit teams the knowledge they need to plan, establish, maintain and evaluate their own assistance programs.

During the conference, each circuit team will develop an action plan to be implemented when they return home. The success of each circuit's action plan will rely on the support of the judges, staff, clerks, and bar members. I strongly encourage you to find out who the representatives from your circuit are and be ready to work with your circuit team to combine the creative energy of all stakeholders in order to benefit the public. ☪

# Supreme Court Requests Pilot Money for Family Courts

by *Jo Haynes Suhr*, OSCA Program Manager

Upon recommendation of the Family Court Steering Committee, the Florida Supreme Court has requested appropriation authority from the Family Courts Trust Fund for 20 family case coordinators. In addition, the Court asked for \$500,000 to implement model family court pilot projects in selected circuits. The pilot projects are the logical next step in the Court's commitment to the continuing development of a model family court. (For the general purposes of this discussion, family cases include domestic relations, domestic violence, juvenile dependency, and juvenile delinquency.)

The Commission on Family Courts, established by the Florida Legislature in 1990, recommended the creation of a family law division within each judicial circuit in its 1991 report. Following the Commission's report, the Supreme Court issued an opinion directing each circuit to develop a local rule establishing a family law division or a means of coordinating family law matters that affect one family if the circuit was too small to administratively justify a family division. (See *In re Report of the Commission on Family Courts*, 588 So.2d 589 (Fla. 1991).)

Much has changed since family cases moved out of civil divisions. Through the establishment of the Family Courts Trust Fund, family courts have begun to develop programs and services to meet critical workload demands in areas such as self-represented litigants intake, guardian ad litem, mediation, custody evaluators, case management, and domestic violence. However, a family court is much more than services to assist judges in resolving family cases. The primary impetus for creating a family court is to eliminate the costs of fragmentation, specifically:

- the unanticipated harmful consequences in considering the several parts apart from the whole (i.e., considering a dissolution of marriage case apart from the same parties' domestic violence case or dependency case);

- unnecessary delays in adjudication and services;
- overlapping jurisdiction resulting in conflicting orders;
- failure to identify and protect persons at risk for domestic violence;
- children becoming lost in foster care drift; and
- repeated interviews of children.<sup>1</sup>

The proliferation of venues and resulting illogical compartmentalization of issues and resources continue to have harmful consequences for children and parents<sup>2</sup>. Most circuits do not have a process for reliably coordinating the court's response to families in crisis. Consider the following example: A lengthy and acrimonious custody dispute results in custody of a 14 year old boy being awarded to the father. While the father is away and the boy is visiting with his mother, he gets in trouble and finds himself in delinquency court. The delinquency judge orders that he will be required to live at home. The mother asks for clarification, "you mean my home?" Not aware of the family law judge's findings in the custody case, the judge responds affirmatively. Had the judge been aware of the evidence and findings in the custody case, he would have had information critical to his decision and would have recognized the mother's request for clarification as an attempt to reverse a previously entered custody order.

A system that coordinates cases involving the same family members, identifies the underlying problems prompting the family's entry into the judicial system, and coordinates services to address these problems will ultimately lead to better outcomes for children and families. This can be accomplished by coordinating three essential elements: 1) cases, 2) court services, and 3) community services.

### Coordinating Cases

The most significant reason for coordinating cases is to provide consistency among court orders affecting a single family, avoiding multiple court appearances and duplication of judicial efforts. Families generally present to the court in domestic relations, domestic violence, juvenile dependency, and juvenile delinquency cases. However, other cases involving the same family members, such as mental health or criminal proceedings, should not be excluded from the coordination efforts of family court staff. An important goal of the pilot projects will be to develop a methodology to determine which cases are sufficiently related to justify their coordination or consolidation.

### Coordinating Court Services

The initial and continued screening of cases to identify presenting issues should be performed by staff not only trained in the operation of family courts, but also in the behavioral sciences and the dynamics of families in crisis. Many of these services can be provided or coordinated without direct oversight by a judicial officer. Examples include: an intake process to identify issues and make mandatory referrals, such as to mediation or parenting courses; a program to improve access by providing forms and procedural information; a program to assure that parents in dependency cases are provided with counsel and that a guardian ad litem is assigned for the children.

### Coordinating Community Services

Family courts should serve as a portal to the social service delivery system. These services benefit not only the family, but the courts. For example, custody, substance abuse, or mental health evaluations. Family courts must establish linkages with community resources to help families develop resources for long-term stability and minimize the need for subsequent court action. Active participation of community service providers during both the implementation process and on an ongoing operational basis is critical to the successful implementation of a model family court.

### What do we hope to gain from the pilots?

Since the establishment of the Family Court Trust Fund, the trial courts have received staff and other resources, which they have utilized to address critical workload needs. While there is no dispute that the need for coordination is great, a model for such coordination has been elusive and most courts have maintained a systemic separation between domestic relations cases, juvenile cases, and other cases involving members of the same family.

If funded, the family court pilots will be awarded to circuits demonstrating strong judicial commitment to developing models of best practice in coordinating family cases. It is likely that there will be more than one successful model; what works in a large circuit may not work in a rural circuit. The emphasis of these pilot projects will be on developing innovative *coordination* models that can be evaluated and, if successful, shared with other circuits.

For more information on how courts in other states are coordinating family cases, contact Jo Haynes Suhr at 850/922-5691 or [suhrj@flcourts.org](mailto:suhrj@flcourts.org).



**Jacinda (Jo) Haynes Suhr** is the program manager of the Family Court Initiative in the Legal Affairs and Education Division at the OSCA. She serves as primary staff to the Family Court Steering Committee and her assignments include projects relating to family law and domestic violence. Jo can be reached at (850) 922-5618,

Suncom 292-5618 or email at [suhrj@flcourts.org](mailto:suhrj@flcourts.org).

<sup>1</sup> Catherine Ross, *The Failure of Fragmentation: The Promise of a System of Unified Family Courts*, 32 Family Law Quarterly, Spring 1998.

<sup>2</sup> Id.

## Test Your Understanding of Florida's Court Interpreters

*Florida is one of the nation's most linguistically diverse states. Each day, people who speak and understand little or no English fatter their way through our justice system. Court Interpreters are a crucial resource, helping the judiciary to ensure that those who least understand our system are afforded the full measure of due process and presence in the courtroom.*

Take the following quiz to test your understanding of interpreters in the judiciary in the State of Florida.

1. True or false: Florida currently has more than 250 state-certified interpreters.
2. A "tested interpreter" is one who:
  - a) has passed an examination administered by the circuit in which the interpreter resides.
  - b) has passed an examination administered by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.
  - c) has passed any examination administered anywhere in the United States.
  - d) has passed an examination administered by the Association of Court Interpreters.
3. When is an interpreter needed in court?
  - a) After an examination of a party or witness, the court concludes that the person cannot understand English well enough to participate fully in the proceeding.
  - b) After an examination of a party or witness, the court concludes that the person cannot speak English well enough to be understood by counsel, the court, or the jury.
  - c) Both of the above.
  - d) None of the above.
4. Who should serve as an interpreter during a courtroom proceeding?
  - a) Any bilingual person who is not a party in the case.
  - b) An attorney, if he or she is bilingual.
  - c) A family member or friend who came to court with the non-English speaking party.
  - d) None of the above.

### ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (False) Florida has no state-certified interpreters at this time, although the guidelines for certification are currently being developed.
2. (b) A "tested interpreter" has taken and passed an examination administered by the State Courts Administrator's Office. Some circuits utilize a local test instrument to screen applicants for a position as interpreter within their court system, but those tests have no impact outside of that circuit's judiciary. OSCA maintains a list of tested interpreters throughout the state.
3. (c) The judge should examine a party or witness to insure that he or she understands English well enough to participate fully in the proceeding and speaks English well enough to be understood by others in the courtroom.
4. (d) Only a qualified interpreter should be used in the courtroom. Being bilingual does not suggest a person has an understanding of the requirements and ethical responsibilities inherent in interpreting, nor does it give an indication of the multiple cognitive skills required in interpreting.

The Office of the State Courts Administrator, through its court interpreters program, is committed to the goal of certification and regulation of court interpreters in the judiciary in the State of Florida. The OSCA is currently establishing guidelines and standards to determine processes for "certification." In addition, the OSCA is conducting training sessions for interpreters and administering examinations to test minimum qualifications of interpreters in the state. For more information regarding the court interpreters program, contact Wanda Romberger at (850) 922-5104, [rombergerw@flcourts.org](mailto:rombergerw@flcourts.org).

# Personnel Matters Benchmarks

## Lynn Wells Joins the OSCA



Lynn Wells

Lynn Wells recently joined the Communications and Legislative Relations team at the OSCA as a legislative and communication specialist. Her responsibilities include assisting, coordinating and managing the State Courts Systems's legislative agenda and handling communication efforts related to legislative priorities.

Wells worked for the past five years as a legislative analyst for the Florida Medical Association, where she was responsible for the overall implementation and monitoring of the legislative program.

Wells can be reached at (850) 922-5081, Suncom 292-5081, or by e-mail at [wellsl@flcourts.org](mailto:wellsl@flcourts.org).

## New Judicial Placements Since January 2000:

### District Court of Appeal

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Robert J. Pleus, Jr.</b> | 5 <sup>th</sup> District |
| <b>Thomas D. Sawaya</b>     | 5 <sup>th</sup> District |

### Circuit Court

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Michael G. Allen</b> | 1 <sup>st</sup> Circuit  |
| <b>Brian D. Lambert</b> | 5 <sup>th</sup> Circuit  |
| <b>Curtis J. Neal</b>   | 5 <sup>th</sup> Circuit  |
| <b>James E.C. Perry</b> | 18 <sup>th</sup> Circuit |
| <b>Peter K. Sieg</b>    | 8 <sup>th</sup> Circuit  |

### County Court

- |                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Sheri Polster Chappell</b> | Lee County      |
| <b>Jimmy E. Hunt</b>          | Columbia County |

*Any judge wishing to place his or her photograph on file with Full Court Press should send it to Kelly Sciba, Supreme Court of Florida, 500 S. Duval Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1900.*

## Certification *from page 5*

### Relationship to Article V Funding

While the Supreme Court accepted and applied Delphi to this year's judicial certification, they did note the necessity of the continued funding of judicial support resources as a critical part of the infrastructure in the trial courts and in the OSCA. The time study results, and hence the reasonable caseload adjustments, are a function of the existing supplemental resources in each trial court. These resources include senior judges, general masters and hearing officers, mediators, trial court staff attorneys, and case management personnel, among others. If these resources are reduced or eliminated during the transition to state funding under Constitutional Revision 7 or due to future budget constraints, then the number of judges necessary could rise substantially because judges would be

required to perform additional case-related work. Indeed, an increase in the availability of certain of these resources is already necessary. For instance, the current budget request seeks additional trial court law clerks to provide increased assistance to circuit and county judges.



**Grant Slayden** is chief of court services at OSCA. He can be reached at (850) 922-5460.

**May**

- 7-12 College of Advanced Judicial Studies, Orlando
- 12-13 Committee on Juvenile Fairness, Orlando
- 17-18 Family Court Steering Committee Meeting, Jacksonville
- 18 Statewide Conference on Pro Se Litigation, Orlando
- 25 Article V Funding Steering Committee Meeting
- 29 Memorial Day, Court Closed

**June**

- 9 Supreme Court Committee on Mediation and Arbitration Training
- 14 Supreme Court ceremony honoring "Florida's First 150 Women Lawyers"
- 16 Judicial Management Council
- 23 Supreme Court Commission on Fairness, Boca Raton
- 25 Treatment Based Drug Court Steering Committee, Clearwater
- 25-28 Florida Conference of Circuit Judges, Annual Business Meeting, Clearwater
- 29 Passing of the Gavel Ceremony, Supreme Court

Note: *The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on 5/2, 5/8-5/12, and 6/5-6/9.*

**Courtside  
Events**

*Full Court Press* is published bi-monthly by Florida's Office of the State Courts Administrator. Readers may submit articles about the courts system or letters regarding the newsletter's coverage of court-related issues. All rights are reserved to edit or decline any material submitted for publication. Send your correspondence to *Full Court Press*, Supreme Court of Florida, 500 S. Duval Street, Tallahassee FL 32399-1900.

This issue of *Full Court Press* was printed on recycled paper at a cost of approximately \$1.50 per copy. Please pass it along to others who might find the information interesting.

*Major B. Harding*  
**Chief Justice**

*Kenneth R. Palmer*  
**State Courts Administrator**

*Brenda Johnson Smith*  
**Director of Communication and Legislative Relations**

*Kelly Sciba*  
**Editor**

*Roopali Kambo*  
**Art Director**

Supreme Court Website:  
[www.flcourts.org/courts/supct/](http://www.flcourts.org/courts/supct/)

JOSHUA:  
[www.flcourts.org](http://www.flcourts.org)

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