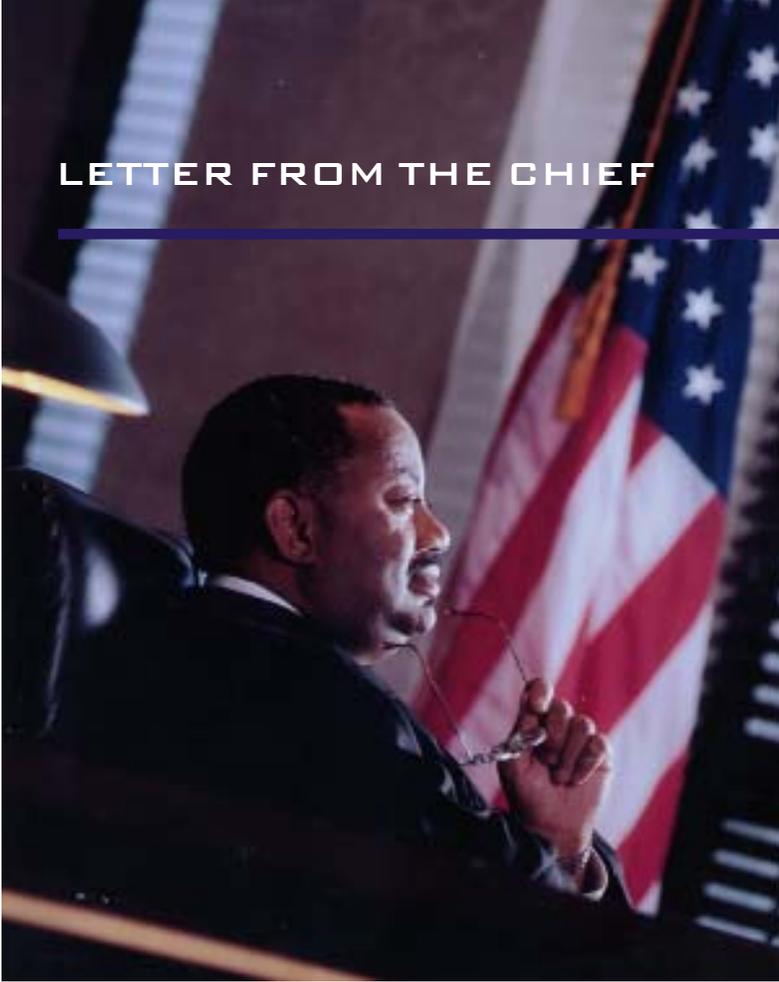




NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COURT of FLORIDA

2004 ANNUAL REPORT
& 2005 GUIDE

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF



Dear Citizens of Orange and Osceola counties:

Welcome to the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court 2004 Annual Report and 2005 Guide. I am pleased to present this publication on behalf of the Judiciary.

Please take time to review our programs and services, familiarize yourself with our judges and learn about our facilities. We have highlighted the circuit's achievements and goals, and included handy telephone lists for the Judiciary and various departments to help guide you.

This has been a challenging year for our circuit. We endured Revision 7, the

transition that moved most court funding to the state, July 1st. I am proud of the work of our Judiciary, Court Administration staff and the staff of the Office of the State Courts Administrator. It was a tenuous time and we are still undergoing change.

Who would have guessed that a bigger challenge lie ahead for each of us, both professionally and personally? Beginning in August, the state of Florida was hit by four hurricanes: from Charley and Frances to Ivan and Jeanne. Many of our colleagues suffered tremendous damage to their homes and turmoil in their lives. Courthouses were closed several times after they sustained broken windows and flooding. Millions of residents lost power and water to their homes. It was a crisis few have ever experienced.

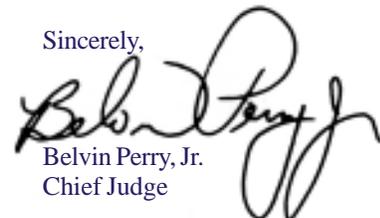
The Court responded quickly to create an Emergency Team for rapid response to courthouse damage, and a telephone notification system to inform employees and visitors during the weather emergencies. Both Orange and Osceola counties used this system effectively. In the aftermath of the disaster, the Court began to rebuild and move forward.

Despite the upheaval of the second half of 2004, we are proud of our many achievements, including establishing a circuit-wide criminal case management system, creating a Mental Health Task Force and a Domestic Violence/Child Abuse Commission to study ways we can better address these important issues, and developing a plan for utilizing magistrates to assist judges with hearings. We continue to strengthen our commitment to providing you a most accessible and responsive court system – one that is both timely and fair – and which serves our community and state with pride.

Central Florida continues to grow in leaps and bounds with new residents and visitors to our beautiful cities. The caseload for our circuit has followed suit, and we anticipate we will grow, with more judges and staff to handle the workload.

Serving our community and state as the leader of the Ninth Judicial Circuit is an honor and a privilege. We look forward to many successes in 2005.

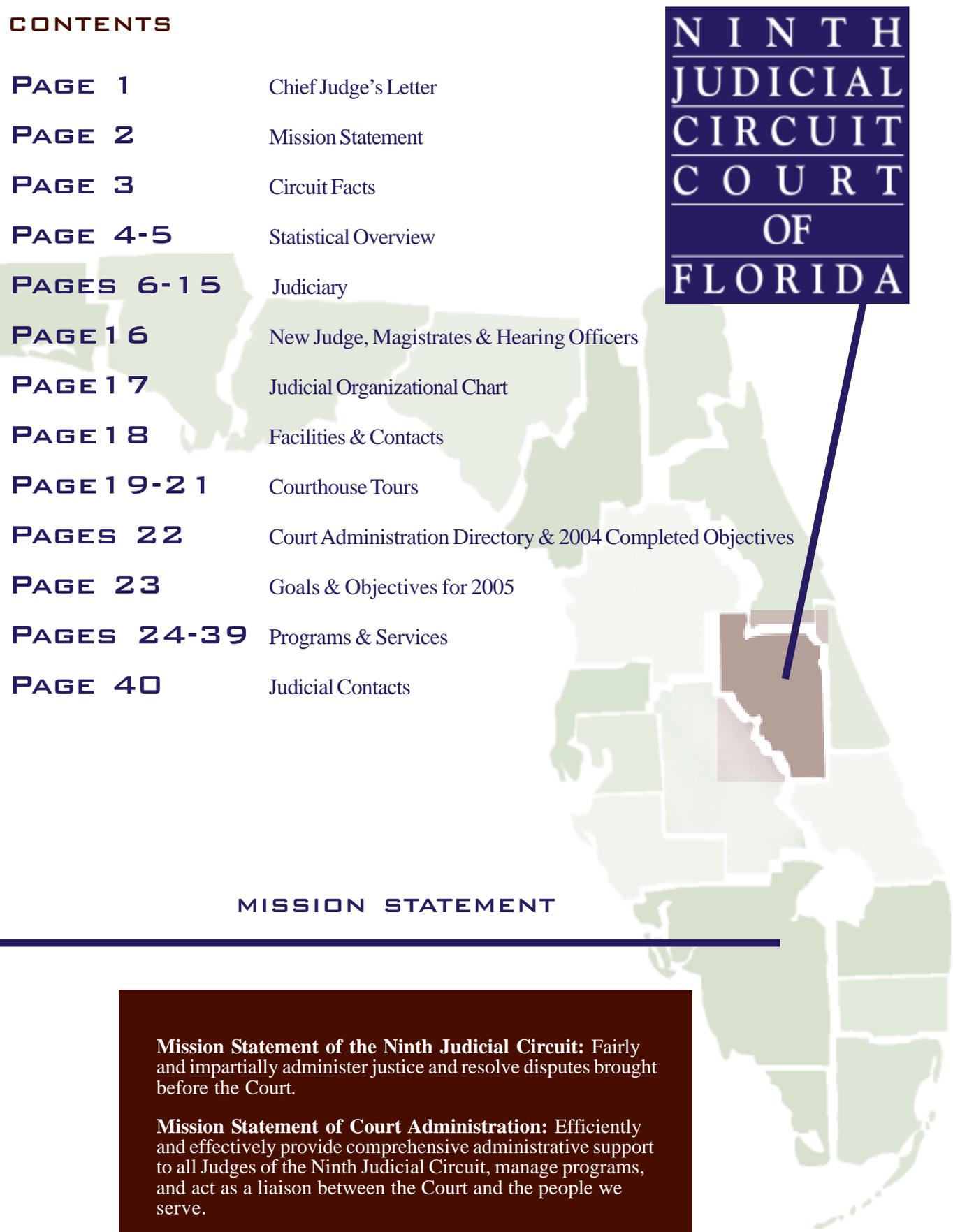
Sincerely,



Belvin Perry, Jr.
Chief Judge

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NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF FLORIDA

MISSION STATEMENT

Mission Statement of the Ninth Judicial Circuit: Fairly and impartially administer justice and resolve disputes brought before the Court.

Mission Statement of Court Administration: Efficiently and effectively provide comprehensive administrative support to all Judges of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, manage programs, and act as a liaison between the Court and the people we serve.

The Ninth Judicial Circuit Court serves Orange and Osceola counties as the state trial court with jurisdiction over criminal and civil cases. The third largest circuit among the state's 20 judicial circuits, the court's authority covers 2,000 square miles of Central Florida and more than 1 million residents.

In addition to a year round population, the area is the number one tourist destination in the world. In 2003 alone, Orange and Osceola counties boasted more than 25 million overnight visitors, many of which came to visit Walt Disney World, SeaWorld Orlando, Universal Orlando and the Orange County Convention Center. That number is expected to exceed 30 million by 2007.

The demographics of Orange and Osceola counties reveal the rich diversity of a population drawn to beautiful weather, a strong economic climate and attractive offerings in office, retail and residential sites. More than 30 percent of the population in both counties falls under the 25-44-age range. Though most of the population is Caucasian, Hispanics now make up almost 30 percent of residents in Osceola County and nearly 20 percent in Orange County. African Americans constitute 19 percent of total residents in Orange County and 8 percent in Osceola County, followed by Asians and American Indians.

As the population and tourism numbers boom, the justice system of the Ninth Judicial Circuit strives to meet the growing demand for its services.

Florida's court system consists of the Supreme Court in Tallahassee; five district courts of appeal, located in Tallahassee, Daytona Beach, Lakeland (with a branch in Tampa), Miami and West Palm Beach; county courts in each of Florida's 67 counties; and 20 circuit courts. The addition of circuit and county judges ensures the increased efficiency and performance of a state court system that citizens expect and deserve.

To fulfill its Constitutional mandate of resolving cases in a fair, impartial and timely manner, it is absolutely essential for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court to continue to expand to meet the growing needs of the vibrant community it serves.

In 2004, the court handled 475,197 case filings. Nearly 73,000 cases were handled in circuit court - an increase of 28 percent in the past 10 years. Since 1995, probate filings increased 31 percent, circuit civil filings grew 38 percent, circuit criminal cases increased 42 percent and domestic relations filings grew 35 percent. A study by the Office of State Courts Administrator showed Osceola County had an overall increase in case filings of 94 percent, where the circuit civil division saw a spike of 86 percent and traffic cases increased by 71 percent. In Orange County, county

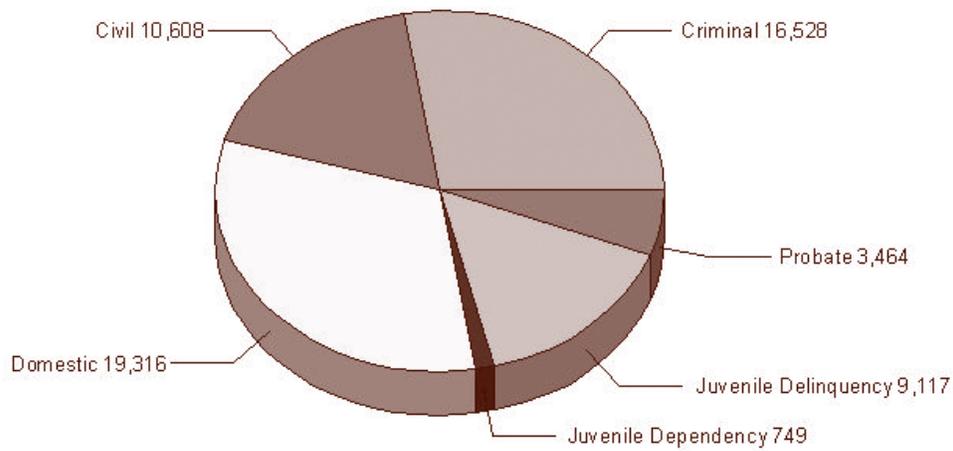
civil cases rose by 59 percent. The ever-increasing caseload is reflective of a large and growing community.

Annually, each circuit submits a request for new judgeships to the Florida Supreme Court. Under the Florida Constitution, the high court analyzes the requests and certifies its findings and recommendations. It is up to the Legislature to fund the positions. Since 1995, the Ninth Judicial Circuit has requested 52 judges to meet the mounting workload. Consideration is given to the deepening complexity of cases and changes in statutes. During that time period, the Florida Supreme Court recommended 41 judgeships for the Ninth Circuit while the Legislature provided funding for only 11 new positions. The Judges of the Ninth Judicial Circuit continue to handle a rapidly increasing caseload with limited resources.

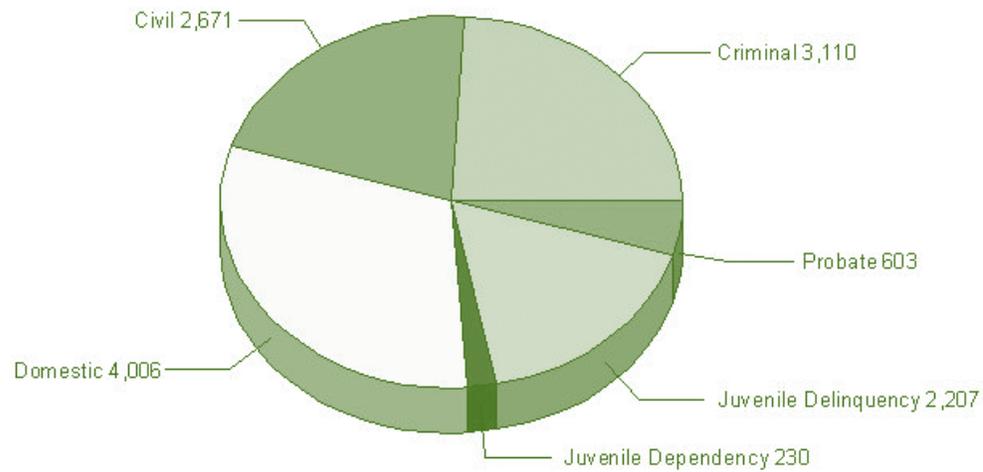


OVERVIEW OF CASE FILINGS IN THE NINTH CIRCUIT

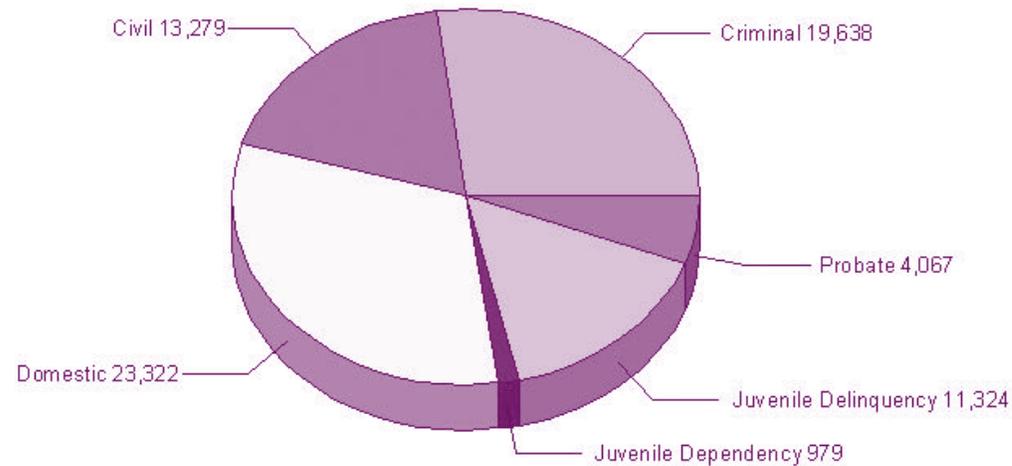
CIRCUIT CASE FILINGS - ORANGE 2004



CIRCUIT CASE FILINGS - OSCEOLA 2004

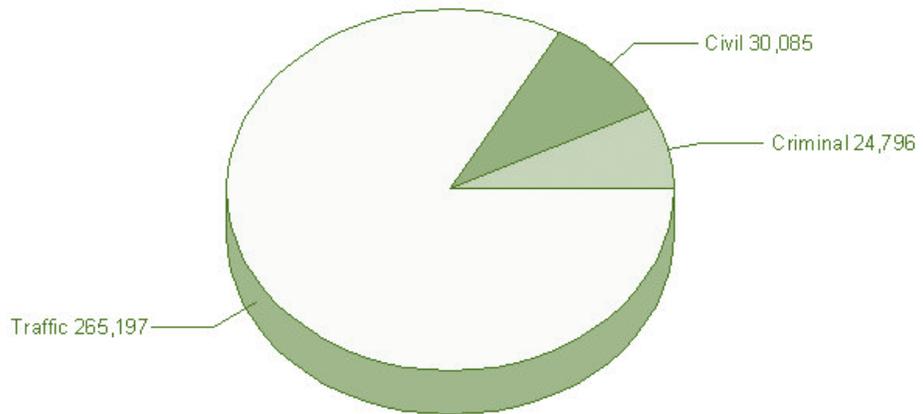


TOTAL CIRCUIT CASE FILINGS 2004

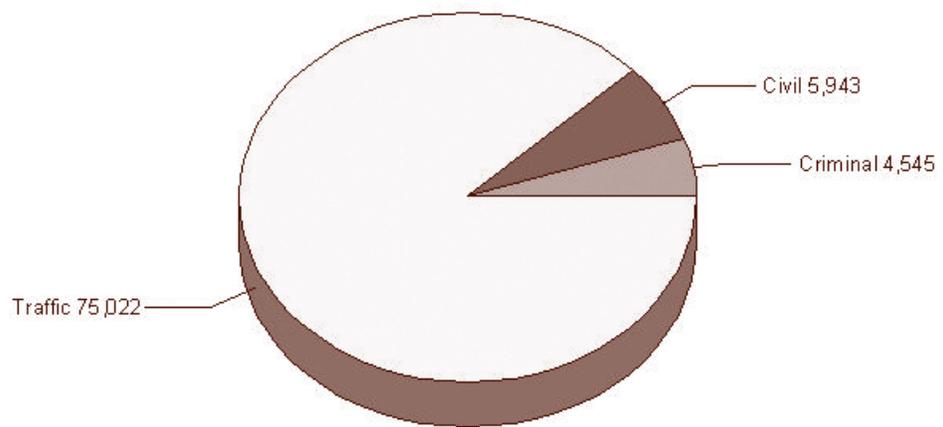




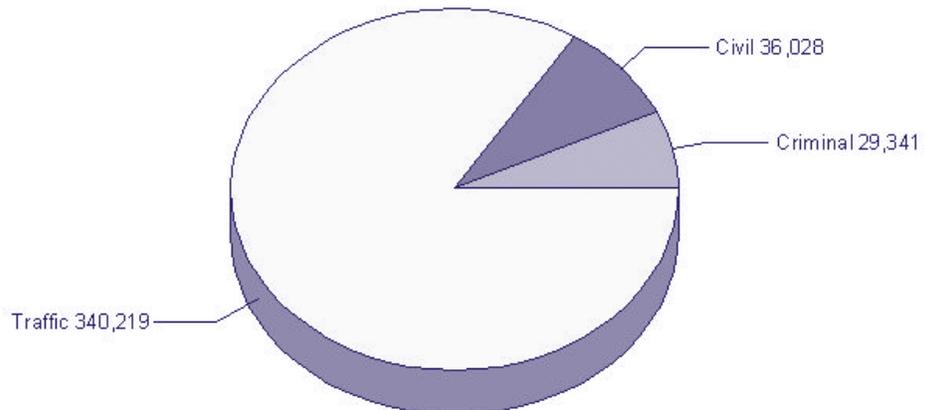
COUNTY CASE FILINGS - ORANGE 2004



COUNTY CASE FILINGS - OSCEOLA 2004



TOTAL COUNTY CASE FILINGS 2004



JUDICIARY of the
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
of FLORIDA

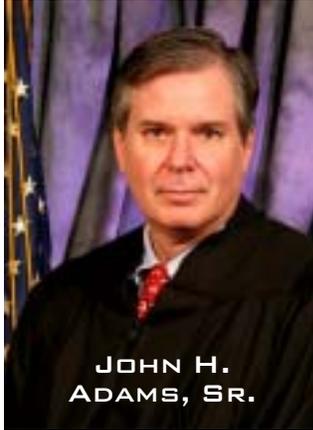
2004



CIRCUIT JUDGES SERVING IN 2004



Circuit Judge: 2001-present
Judge of Compensation
Claims: 1992-2001
JD: Stetson University
BA: University of Central
Florida
Major: Finance and
Economics



Circuit Judge: 1991-present
County Judge: 1985-1991
JD: University of Michigan
BA: Webster College
Major: Mathematics



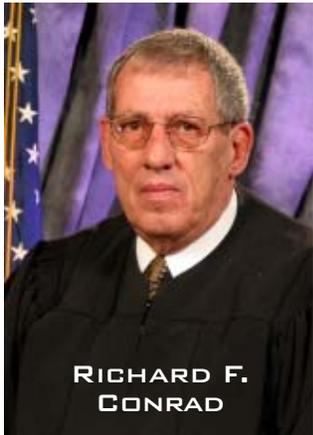
Circuit Judge: 2003-present
JD: Nova University
BA: University of Miami
Major: Chemistry



Circuit Judge: 1993-present
County Judge: 1986-1993
JD: University of Florida
BA: Rollins College
AA: Seminole Community
College
Major: Psychology



Circuit Judge: 1994-present
County Judge: 1990-1994
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of Florida
Major: English Literature



Circuit Judge: 1988-present
County Judge: 1986-1988
JD: Stetson University
BA: St. Louis University
Major: Zoology & Chemistry

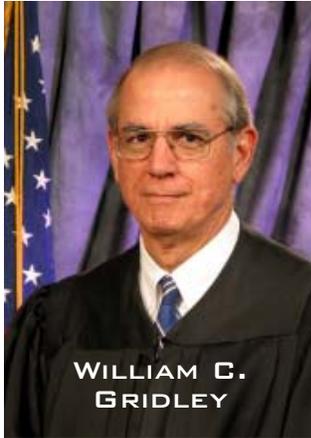


Circuit Judge: 1991-present
JD: Stetson University
BA: University of Florida
Major: Business
Administration

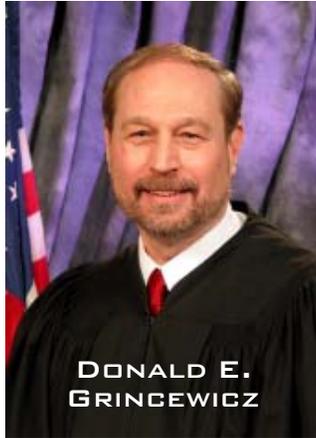


Circuit Judge: 1995-present
JD: Florida State University
BA: Ball State University
Major: Political Science

CIRCUIT JUDGES SERVING IN 2004



WILLIAM C. GRIDLEY
 Circuit Judge: 1973-present
 Juvenile Judge: 1972-1973
 JD: University of Florida
 BA: University of Florida
 Major: Political Science



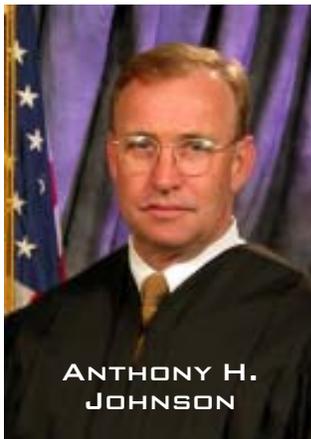
DONALD E. GRINCEWICZ
 Circuit Judge: 1995-present
 County Judge: 1994-1995
 JD: Detroit College of Law
 BA: Wayne State University
 Major: Political Science



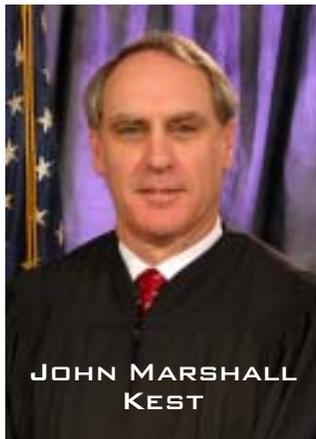
JAMES C. HAUSER
 Circuit Judge: 1991-present
 County Judge: 1980-1991
 JD: Boston University
 BA: University of Pennsylvania/Wharton School of Finance
 Major: Economics



JAMES E. HENSON
 Circuit Judge: 2003-present
 County Judge: 1997-2001
 JD: Nova University
 BA: University of Central Florida
 Major: Accounting



ANTHONY H. JOHNSON
 Circuit Judge 1997-present
 County Judge: 1985-1990
 Senior Judge: 1991-1996
 JD: Stetson University
 BA: American University
 Major: Administration of Justice



JOHN MARSHALL KEST
 Circuit Judge: 2003-present
 JD: Florida State University
 BA: Rollins College
 Major: Biology

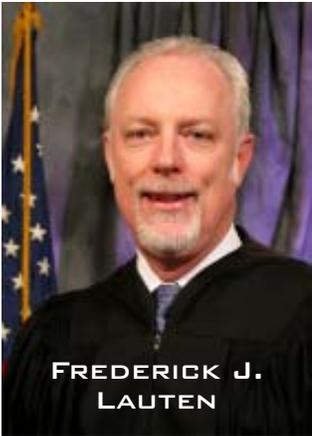


LAWRENCE R. KIRKWOOD
 Circuit Judge: 1981-present
 JD: University of Florida
 MA: University of Nevada-Reno
 BA: Florida Southern College
 Major: History/Government



WALTER KOMANSKI
 Circuit Judge: 1985-present
 County Judge: 1981-1985
 JD: John Marshall Law School
 BA: University of Central Florida
 Major: Communications/Political Science

CIRCUIT JUDGES SERVING IN 2004



**FREDERICK J.
LAUTEN**

Circuit Judge: 1999-present
County Judge: 1993-1999
JD: Villanova University
MBA: Rollins College
BA: Rollins College
Major: History



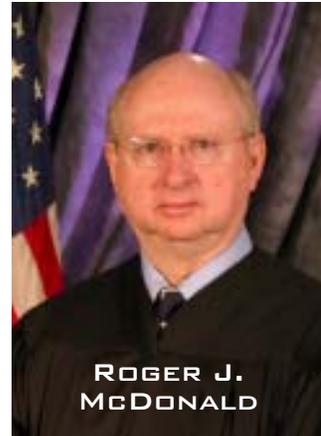
C. ALAN LAWSON

Circuit Judge: 2002-present
JD: Florida State University
BA: Clemson University
Major: Parks, Recreation and
Tourism Management
AA: Tallahassee
Community College



**CYNTHIA Z.
MACKINNON**

Circuit Judge: 1994-present
JD: University of Florida
MA: Emory University
BA: Emory University
Major: English



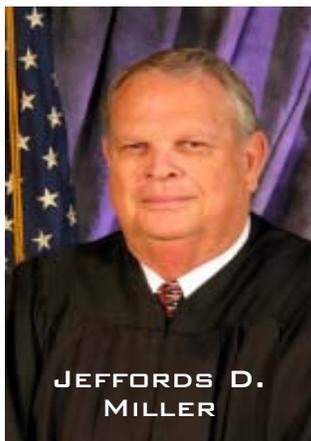
**ROGER J.
MCDONALD**

Circuit Judge: 1997-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: Florida State University
Major: Finance



A. THOMAS MIHOK

Circuit Judge: 1995-present
JD: Stetson University
BA: United States Naval
Academy
Major: Math, Science &
Engineering



**JEFFORDS D.
MILLER**

Circuit Judge: 1987-present
JD: Cumberland Law School
MA: Rollins College
BA: Rollins College
Major: History &
Government



LISA T. MUNYON

Circuit Judge: 2003-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of Florida
Major: Finance



JULIE H. O'KANE

Circuit Judge: 2003-present
JD: Stetson University
BA: Florida Atlantic
University
Major: Marketing

CIRCUIT JUDGES SERVING IN 2004



RENEE A. ROCHE

Circuit Judge: 1997-present
 County Judge: 1995-1997
 JD: University of Florida
 BA: Auburn University
 Major: History



**JOSE R.
 RODRIGUEZ**

Circuit Judge: 1994-present
 County Judge: 1987-1994
 JD: Florida State University
 BA: University of
 Central Florida
 Major: Communications
 AA: Miami-Dade
 Community College



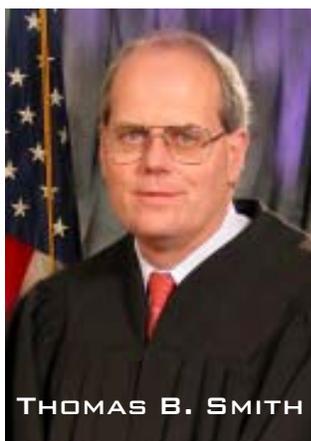
MAURA T. SMITH

Circuit Judge: 1996-present
 JD: Florida State University
 BA: Tufts University
 Major: Economics



BELVIN PERRY, JR.

Chief Judge
 Circuit Judge: 1989-present
 JD: Texas Southern
 University
 MA: Tuskegee University
 BA: Tuskegee University
 Major: History



THOMAS B. SMITH

Circuit Judge: 2002-present
 JD: University of Florida
 BA: University of
 South Florida
 Major: History



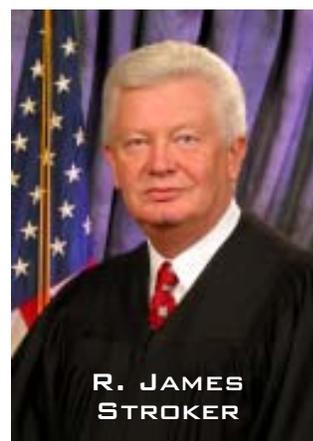
**GEORGE A.
 SPRINKEL IV**

Circuit Judge: 1990-present
 County Judge: 1977-1990
 JD: University of Florida
 BA: University of Florida
 Major: Political Science



STAN STRICKLAND

Circuit Judge: 1998-present
 County Judge: 1995-1998
 Judge of Compensation
 Claims: 1993-1998
 JD: Mercer University
 MA: Florida State University
 BA: Florida State University



**R. JAMES
 STROKER**

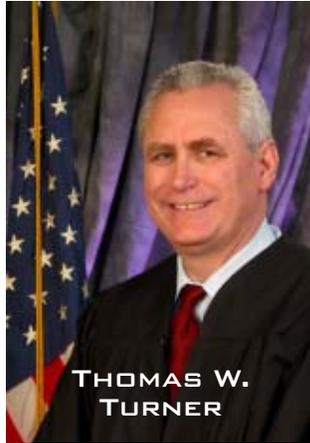
Circuit Judge: 1983-present
 County Judge: 1977-1983
 Municipal Court Judge:
 1974-1976
 JD: Cornell University
 BA: Cornell University
 Major: Industrial Relations

CIRCUIT JUDGES SERVING IN 2004



JANET C. THORPE

Circuit Judge: 2000-present
JD: Emory University
BA: Union College
Major: American History/
Political Science



**THOMAS W.
TURNER**

Circuit Judge: 2003-present
JD: Wayne State University
BA: Ball State University
Major: Political Science



**MARGARET T.
WALLER**

Circuit Judge: 1998-present
County Judge: 1994-1998
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of Florida
Major: English



BOB WATTLES

Circuit Judge: 1995-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of Florida
Major: Journalism/Public
Relations



**ALICE BLACKWELL
WHITE**

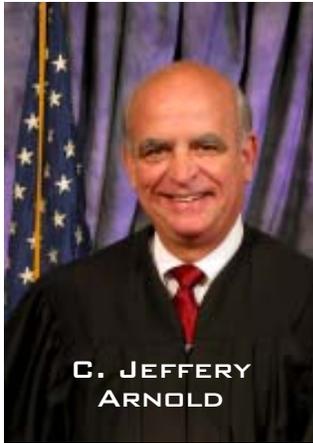
Circuit Judge: 1991-present
JD: University of
South Carolina
BA: Furman University
Major: Political Science



**REGINALD
WHITEHEAD**

Circuit Judge: 1995-present
County Judge: 1994-1995
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of
Mississippi
Major: Political Science

COUNTY JUDGES SERVING IN 2004



**C. JEFFERY
ARNOLD**
Orange County Judge:
1994-present
JD: Florida State University
BA: College of William and
Mary
Major: Pre-Law



DEB S. BLECHMAN
Orange County Judge:
1995-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of Central
Florida
Major: Political
Science/Pre-Law



JERRY L. BREWER
Orange County Judge:
1995-present
JD: Cumberland
School of Law
BA: University of
Central Florida
Major: Political Science



LEON B. CHEEK III
Orange County Judge:
1998-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of Florida
Major: Political Science



NANCY L. CLARK
Orange County Judge:
2000-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of Florida
Major: Political Science



**CAROL ENGEL
DRAPER**
Osceola County Judge:
1993-present
JD: Stetson University
BA: Ithaca College
Major: Music Education

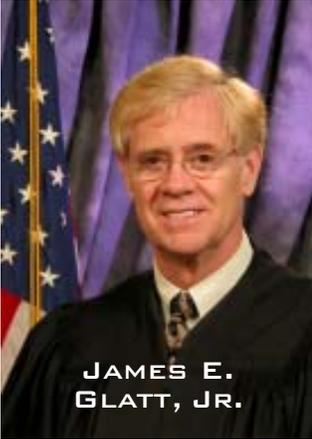


**JEFFREY M.
FLEMING**
Orange County Judge:
2002-present
JD: Florida State University
BA: University of
Central Florida
Major: Political Science



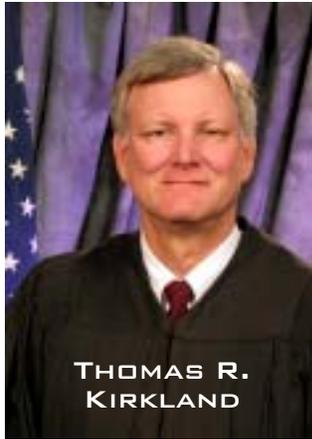
**CAROLYN B.
FREEMAN**
Orange County Judge:
1991-present
JD: Florida State University
BA: Rollins College
Major: Business

COUNTY JUDGES SERVING IN 2004



**JAMES E.
GLATT, JR.**

Orange County Judge:
1997-2004
Orange County Traffic
Hearing Officer: 1995-1997
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of Florida
Major: Electrical Engineering



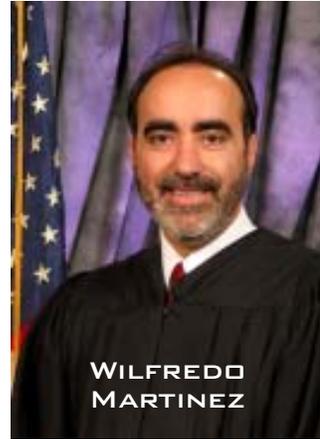
**THOMAS R.
KIRKLAND**

Orange County Judge:
1977-present
JD: Stetson University
Law School
BA: University of Florida
Major: Industrial
Management



**RONALD A.
LEGENDRÉ**

Osceola County Judge:
1981-present
JD: Florida State University
BA: Loyola of New Orleans
Major: History



**WILFREDO
MARTINEZ**

Orange County Judge:
1998-present
JD: New York University
BA: Yale University
Major: Spanish Literature



**W. MICHAEL
MILLER**

Orange County Judge:
1991-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: Furman University
Major: Political Science



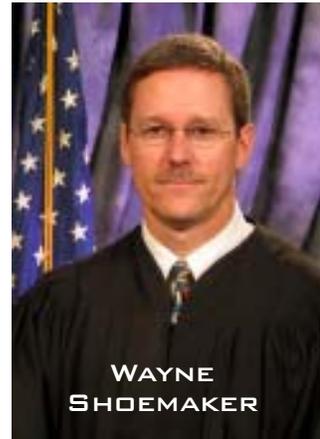
JON B. MORGAN

Osceola County Judge:
1998-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of Florida
Major: Political Science



**ANTOINETTE
PLOGSTEDT**

Orange County Judge:
2001-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of Tampa
Major: Marketing



**WAYNE
SHOEMAKER**

Orange County Judge:
1999-present
JD: South Texas
College of Law
BA: University of
Central Florida
Major: Criminal Justice

COUNTY JUDGES SERVING IN 2004



**JANIS MARY
HALKER SIMPSON**

Orange County Judge:
1979-present
JD: University of Florida
MA: Loyola University
BA: University of Florida
Major: Sociology



ALAN C. TODD

Orange County Judge:
1990-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: Wharton School,
University of Pennsylvania
Major: Economics





TED P. COLEMAN

Senior Judge: 2002-present
 Circuit Judge: 1983-2002
 County Judge: 1973-1979
 JD: University of Florida
 BA: University of Florida
 AA: Brevard Community College
 Major: Advertising



FRANK N. KANEY

Senior Judge: 2001-present
 Circuit Judge: 1977-2001
 County Judge: 1973-1977
 JD: University of Miami
 BA: Florida State University
 Major: Speech Communications



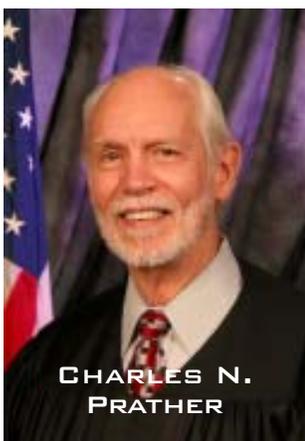
FREDERICK PFEIFFER

Senior Judge: 1994-present
 Circuit Judge: 1973-1994
 JD: George Washington University
 BA: University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
 Major: History



ROM W. POWELL

Senior Judge: 1997-present
 Circuit Judge: 1979-1997
 JD: Stetson University
 BA: Dartmouth College
 Major: English Literature



CHARLES N. PRATHER

Senior Judge: 2001-present
 Circuit Judge: 1990-2001
 County Judge: 1983-1989
 JD: Stetson University
 BA: Stetson University
 Major: Economics



DOROTHY J. RUSSELL

Senior Judge: 2004-present
 Circuit Judge: 1990-2003
 County Judge: 1983-1990
 JD: Stetson University
 MA: Rollins College
 BA: State University of New York at Buffalo
 AA: Olympic College

Retired and Senior Status Judges

Retired judges may apply for senior judge status. Senior judges are placed on an approved list by the Florida Supreme Court, which allows them to return to the bench to hear cases. In 2004, the high court allotted the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court 381 senior judge days. Retired judges who return to the practice of law are not permitted to serve as senior judges.

Retired Judges

Honorable Cecil H. Brown - Took office: January 1973/
 Retired: March 1990.
 Honorable B.C. Muszynski - Took office: October 1968/
 Retired: December 1990.
 Honorable Steven R. Wallace - Took office: April 1988/
 Retired: December 1996.
 Honorable Joseph P. Baker - Took office: October 1977/
 Retired: December 2002.
 Honorable W. Rogers Turner - Took office: January 1969/
 Retired: December 2002.

Senior Judges in 2003

Honorable Lon S. Cornelius, Jr. - Took office: June 1974/
 Retired: December 1990.
 Honorable Frederick Pfeiffer - Took office: October 1973/
 Retired: December 1993.
 Honorable Rom W. Powell - Took office: January 1979/
 Retired: December 1996.
 Honorable Frank N. Kaney - Took office: January 1973/
 Retired December 2000.
 Honorable Charles Prather - Took office: January 1983/
 Retired December 2001.
 Honorable Ted P. Coleman - Took office: January 1973/
 Retired December 2002.
 Honorable Dorothy Russell - Took office: January 1983/
 Retired May 2003.

Appointments

The Honorable Emerson R. Thompson, Jr. took office in the Ninth Judicial Circuit in October 1976. In March 1993, he was appointed to the Fifth District Court of Appeal, where he serves today.

NEW JUDGE SERVING IN 2005



MIKE MURPHY

Orange County Judge:
2005-present
JD: University of Florida
College of Law
BSBA: University of Florida
Major: Management

MAGISTRATES SERVING IN 2005



MAUREEN BELL



**HOWARD
FRIEDMAN**



**JAMES E.
GLATT, JR.**



MARIA HINDS



**STEFANIA
JANCEWICZ**



**ODESSIA
JOYNER**

JUDICIAL HEARING OFFICERS SERVING IN 2005



**CHRISTINE
GROVES**



**STEVEN
JABLON**

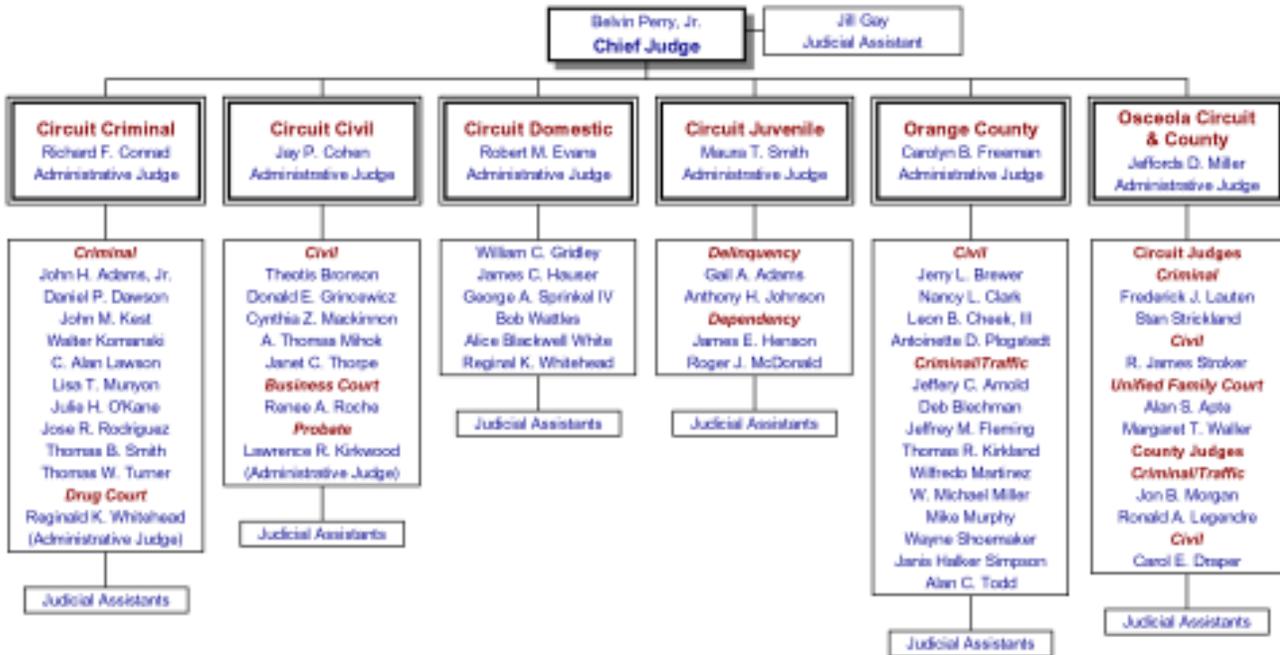


NORBERTO KATZ



**GEORGE
WINSLOW JR.**

2005 JUDICIAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES SERVING IN 2004 & 2005

2005 Administrative Judges for Circuit and County Courts

Honorable Jay P. Cohen – General Civil Division
 Honorable Richard F. Conrad – Criminal Division
 Honorable Maura T. Smith – Juvenile Division
 Honorable Robert M. Evans – Family Court Division
 Honorable Reginald K. Whitehead - Drug Court
 Honorable Lawrence R. Kirkwood – Probate/Mental Health/Guardianship
 Honorable Janet C. Thorpe - Appellate Division
 Honorable Judge Carolyn B. Freeman – Orange County Administrative Judge
 Honorable Judge Jerry L. Brewer – Orange County Associate Administrative Judge
 Honorable Judge Jeffords D. Miller – Osceola County Administrative Judge

2004 Administrative Judges for Circuit and County Courts

Honorable Jay P. Cohen – General Civil Division
 Honorable Richard F. Conrad – Criminal Division
 Honorable Jose R. Rodriguez – Juvenile Division
 Honorable Robert M. Evans – Family Court Division
 Honorable Reginald K. Whitehead – Drug Court
 Honorable Lawrence R. Kirkwood – Probate/Mental Health/Guardianship
 Honorable Janet C. Thorpe – Appellate Division
 Honorable Carolyn B. Freeman – Orange County Administrative Judge
 Honorable Jeffords D. Miller – Osceola County Administrative Judge

The Ninth Judicial Circuit is comprised of two counties: Orange and Osceola. The Osceola County Courthouse is located in downtown Kissimmee. The Orange County Courthouse is located in downtown Orlando. In Orange County juvenile cases are heard, at the Thomas S. Kirk Juvenile Justice Center, just south of downtown on Michigan Street. To allow Orange County residents greater access to the courts, satellite buildings are provided in — Apopka, Ocoee and Winter Park.

Orange County Courthouse

425 North Orange Avenue
Orlando, Florida 32801
407-836-2050

Apopka Branch Courthouse

1111 N Rock Springs Road
Apopka, FL 32703
407-836-2007

**Thomas S. Kirk
Juvenile Justice Center**

2000 East Michigan Street
Orlando, Florida 32806
407-836-7590

Ocoee Branch Courthouse

475 N Story Ave.
Ocoee, FL 32761
407-667-6200

Osceola County Courthouse

2 Courthouse Square
Kissimmee, Florida 34741
407-343-2400

Winter Park Branch Courthouse

450 N Lakemont Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32789
407-671-1116

Circuit and County Court Jurisdiction

Chief Judge Belvin Perry, Jr. is the administrator for the judiciary and staff of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court. The circuit is divided into divisions; each led by an administrative judge.

As a court of general jurisdiction, the Circuit Court handles felonies, probate matters, juvenile proceedings, family court, civil actions and County to Circuit Appeals. Divisions include:

Circuit Criminal Division - - Judges preside over felony cases (major criminal cases).

Circuit Civil Division - - Judges preside over civil disputes where possible damages exceed \$15,000 and other civil matters.

Domestic Relations - - Judges preside over cases involving family issues, including domestic and repeat violence allegations.

Juvenile Division - - Judges preside over cases that deal with juvenile delinquency and dependency matters.

Probate Division - - a Judge presides over the processing of wills and settlement of estates, as well as guardianship, mental health cases and involuntary civil commitments of sexually violent predators.

County Court, which is separate from circuit court, is divided into three divisions:

Appellate Division - - Judges are assigned to appellate panels, comprised of three judges, to preside over cases seeking review of County Court decisions.

County Civil Division - - Judges preside over disputes where possible damages do not exceed \$15,000, including landlord and tenant eviction cases.

Criminal Division - - Judges preside over misdemeanors (lesser crimes) and violations of municipal and county ordinances.

Traffic Division - - Judges preside over traffic infractions and law violations.

ORANGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE GUIDE

The 23-story Orange County Courthouse is located in downtown Orlando. The building, which opened in late 1997, is 416 feet high. The courthouse has twelve courtrooms. The court complex includes the State Attorney and Public Defender offices in buildings on either side of the main courthouse. Also, the Clerk of the Court, Court Administration, Harbor House and the Orange County Sheriff's Office are located in the main building.

1st Floor: Anyone entering the first floor is required to pass through metal detectors inside the main entrance.

Public Lobby/Information Booth: The lobby contains the escalators, several sets of elevators and an information booth staffed by volunteers.

Jury Assembly: Jury Services manages prospective jurors daily.

Clerk of Court Records Management: Operates storage for inactive court files.

Dispute Resolution Services (Mediation): Judges refer county civil and domestic relations court cases to mediators in an attempt to settle prior to trial.

Sheriff's Office - Judicial Services: Deputies provide security for the building.

2nd Floor: *A Place for Children:* Licensed childcare facility for parents with official court business.

Clerk of the Court Felony & Misdemeanor: Maintains and processes records for felonies, criminal appeals, misdemeanors, municipal and county ordinances and parking violations.

3rd Floor: *Court Interpreting Services:* Translation services for criminal cases.

Court Resource Center: Self-help center for court visitors.

Clerk of Court Circuit Civil, Domestic, Mental Health, Probate, Marriage Licenses, County Civil: Keeper of these records.

Court Reporting Services: Maintains digital and stenographic records of court proceedings.

Court Administration - Family Court Services: Assists the public and acts as a liaison between the courts and social service agencies.

Court Interpreting Services: Provides neutral interpreting services for the courts in various languages.

4th Floor: *Traffic:* Courtrooms, Clerk of the Court Civil and Criminal Traffic Divisions.

5th Floor: *Court Administration- Human Resources:* Administrative and operational offices including Human Resources, Budget & Finance, Facilities, etc.

Child Support Hearing Officers: Child support enforcement cases are handled here.

6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 12th Floors: *County and circuit civil courtrooms.*

13th 14th 15th Floors: *Reserved for expansion, not accessible to the public.*

16th 17th 18th Floors: *Circuit courtrooms.*

21st Floor: *Court Administration & Clerk of Court:* Administrative offices.

22nd Floor: *Mechanical:* Houses air conditioning and elevator machinery.

23rd Floor: *Roger A. Barker Courtroom, Gene Medina Judicial Conference Room.*

* Judicial chambers are located on 3, 4, 8, 11, 17 and 20. Courtrooms are located on 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 23.



425 NORTH ORANGE AVENUE
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

OSCEOLA COUNTY COURTHOUSE GUIDE

The Osceola County Courthouse is located in downtown Kissimmee. After 2 years of construction, this state-of-the-art building opened April 23, 2001. The courthouse has twelve courtrooms. In addition, it contains judicial chambers, the Clerk of the Court, State Attorney's Office, Office of the Public Defender, Court Administration, and the Osceola County Sheriff's Judicial Services Division. So that it may serve citizens for years to come, the courthouse contains space for future expansion to accommodate the county's growth.

1st Floor: Anyone entering the first floor of the courthouse is required to pass through metal detectors inside the main entrance.

The Information Booth: Located inside the main entrance, the information booth is staffed by volunteers who answer questions and direct visitors to proper departments.

Jury Assembly: Jury Services manages prospective jurors for the court on a daily basis.

Court Reporting Services: Maintains digital and stenographic records of court proceedings. Transcripts are produced free of charge for poor defendants who obtain a court order. Privately ordered transcripts may also be purchased through this office.

Court Interpreting Services: Provides neutral interpreting services for the courts in various languages.

Dispute Resolution Services (Mediation): Court cases involving county civil and domestic relations are referred by judges to certified mediators to attempt to settle prior to trial.

Sheriff's Office - Judicial Services: The deputies provide security while maintaining order in the courtroom. This office is responsible for the execution of arrest warrants, in-state transportation, serving court orders, and various other duties.

The Public Defender's Office: Appointed by the Court to represent indigent clients in court proceedings.

2nd Floor: *The Clerk of the Court:* The Clerk is the official record keeper for the court system. Most services (civil, criminal, recording) are handled on the second floor.

3rd Floor: *Court Administration - Family Court Services:* Acts as a liaison between the courts and social service agencies. Departments include: Court Case Management, Adult & Juvenile Drug Court, Teen Court, the Visitation Center and Unified Family Court.

The State Attorney's Office: The State Attorney's Office is responsible for prosecuting people who commit crimes and assisting victims of crime.

Guardian ad Litem Program: In certain judicial proceedings, a judge may appoint a Guardian ad Litem to represent the best interests of a child and/or children in a court proceeding.

4th and 5th Floors: *Courtrooms:* There are six courtrooms on each floor, several attorney interview rooms, conference rooms, and an attorney lounge.

6th Floor: *Court*

Administration: Administrative and operational offices, including Human Resources, Budget & Finance, Facilities, etc.

The Clerk of Court: Administrative offices for the Clerk of the Court.

Judicial Chambers: Judicial offices for the circuit and county judges and their assistants.



THOMAS S. KIRK JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER & OUR SATELLITE FACILITIES

The Thomas S. Kirk Juvenile Justice Center (Juvenile Court) is a one-story building located at 2000 E. Michigan Street in Orlando. The court building is conveniently located near the state-run Orange Regional Juvenile Detention Center, Orange County's Great Oaks Village (which provides care for dependent children) and the Public Defender's Juvenile Division office.

There are presently 5 circuit judges assigned to the Juvenile Division. A magistrate is assigned part time for specific tasks. Currently, the juvenile judges preside over two types of cases, delinquency and dependency cases, in which the petitioner is generally The Department of Children and Families (DCF). Court reporting services is responsible for the official record of all court proceedings and court interpreters are used when needed.

The State Attorney's and the Clerk of Court's juvenile divisions are also located in the building, along with liaisons from several agencies and programs that are a part of the juvenile justice system, such as the Department of Juvenile Justice, Orange County Public Schools and contract providers for DCF. The Juvenile Justice Center shares space with security and the Orange County Sheriff's Office, which has separate, on-site holding cells for adults and children.

Court Administration runs several programs for youth, which have offices at the juvenile court, including Sanctioned to Read, Teen Court, Neighborhood Restorative Justice, Pay Up, and Juvenile Drug Court. Orange County Public Schools runs a Crime and Consequences class for students in the 5th grade. In the first half of 2004, truancy issues and mediation have also been key components of Juvenile Justice. We are seeking ways to reintroduce these functions of juvenile court. Plans for an expansion of the facility will commence in 2005. This will enhance the center and add an additional courtroom and judicial chamber plus related staff areas.



Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida Branch Services Buildings

Orange County Court judges travel to the three satellite courts in Ocoee, Apopka and Winter Park to hear traffic and misdemeanor arraignments. In addition, traffic court hearing officers travel to the satellite courts to hear traffic infraction hearings. The Ocoee and Apopka Branch Services Buildings were built at the same time and are identical images of each other.

The **Ocoee Branch Services Building** is located at 475 Story Road in Ocoee and was dedicated in 1975. Traffic hearing officers hear infraction hearings on Mondays, and judges hear court matters on Wednesdays. The building houses offices for the visiting judge and hearing officer, an arraignment courtroom, the Sheriff's Substation and Marine Unit, Orange County Health Department and Vital Statistics, Youth and Family Services and the State of Florida Driver License renewal. The office of the Orange County Clerk of the Court processes all County Court matters, including traffic, misdemeanor, civil cases involving less than \$15,000, passports, landlord/tenant evictions, and marriage licenses. There is an ATM located at the entrance to the building.

The **Apopka Branch Services Building** is located at 1111 North Rock Springs Road in Apopka and was also dedicated in 1975. Traffic hearing officers hear infraction cases on the fourth Tuesday of every month, and judges hear court matters on Thursdays. The building houses offices for the visiting judge and hearing officer, an arraignment courtroom, the Sheriff's substation, Orange County Health Department and Vital Statistics, Youth and Family Services, and Veteran's Assistance. The State of Florida does not renew driver's licenses in this building. The Orange County Clerk of the Court processes all county court matters, including traffic, misdemeanor and civil cases involving less than \$15,000, passports, landlord/tenant evictions, and marriage licenses. There is an ATM located at the entrance to the building.

The **Winter Park Branch Services Building** is located at 450 North Lakemont Avenue in Winter Park. This building is a privately owned building leased by Orange County. The Offices of the Clerk of the Court moved into the building in 1991, and the courts began operation there in 1992. Prior to that time, court was held at the Winter Park City Hall, and the Clerk of the Court was housed across the street. Traffic hearing officers hear infractions on Tuesdays, and judges hear court matters on Fridays. The building houses offices for the visiting judge and hearing officer, an arraignment courtroom, and the Orange County Clerk of the Court. The State of Florida also renews driver licenses at this location. The Clerk of the Court processes all county court matters, including traffic, misdemeanor and civil cases involving less than \$15,000, passports, landlord/tenant evictions and marriage licenses.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

A court administrator in each of the 20 judicial circuits is tasked with assisting the chief judge to carry out the court's administrative duties. The court administrator is selected by a majority vote of the circuit and county judges and reports directly to the chief judge.

Matt Benefiel, court administrator for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, and his staff assist the judiciary in the following areas: budget administration, fiscal administration, public information, jury management, court reporting management, case management, legal research, court technology, dispute resolution, court interpreters, pretrial release and management of programs and services. Court Administration develops and manages programs and services for the circuit, disseminates information about the court system to the media and general public and assists the judiciary with all aspects of court management.

COURT ADMINISTRATION TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Orange Administrative Offices 407-836-2050
Osceola Administrative Offices 407-343-2400

ORANGE COUNTY

A Place for Children 407-836-2108
Audio/Visual 407-836-0534

Business Court 407-836-2366
Child Support Hearing Officers 407-836-2287
Court Care Center 407-836-2120
Court Interpreters 407-836-2399
Court Resource Center 407-836-0517
Digital Court Reporters 407-836-2270
Dispute Resolution Services (Mediation) 407-846-2004
Drug Court 407-836-0419

Family Court Services 407-836-6054
Family Ties Program 407-836-0426
Human Resources/Fiscal 407-836-2261
Juvenile Court Services 407-836-7590
Jury Services 407-836-2206

Magistrate 407-836-1621

Neighborhood Restorative Justice 407-836-9553
Official Court Reporters 407-836-2280
Pay-Up 407-836-8972
Sanctioned To Read 407-836-9313

Technology Services 407-836-6010
Teen Court 407-836-2465

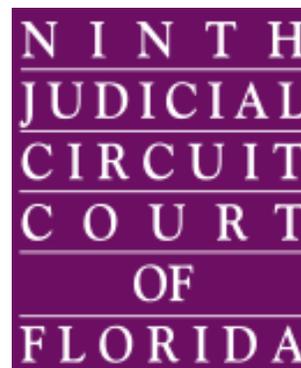
Traffic Infraction Hearing Officers 407-836-2334

OSCEOLA COUNTY

Dispute Resolution Services (Mediation) 407-343-2451
Information Services 407-343-2487
Drug Court 407-343-2431
Family Court Services 407-343-2538
Court Interpreters 407-343-2400
Court Reporting Services 407-343-2476
Court Services 407-343-2400
Jury Services 407-343-2421

Magistrates 407-343-2428
Teen Court 407-343-2466

Traffic Court Hearing Officers 407-343-2400



2004

COMPLETED OBJECTIVES

- Established a task force to address injunction issues
- Developed videoconference/presentation system for Judicial Conference room
- Upgraded centralized court reporting software (FTR) - Juvenile Court
- Developed plan for use of special masters in domestic cases
- Developed an automated Court Appointed Attorney application
- Created customized tour programs and brochures for various audiences
- Developed talking brochures for Court's website
- Configured all Circuit Criminal Courtrooms for digital reporting
- Established a circuit-wide criminal case management plan
- Opened Florida's first Business Court
- Established guidelines to determine when cases are complete
- Established a Mental Health Task Force
- Established a Domestic Violence/Child Abuse Task Force
- Implemented Jail Oversight Committee recommendations - Orange County
- Established a courtroom at the County Jail to streamline case management
- Reduced the VOP hearing time
- Reviewed the setting of bonds in VOP cases

Promote Responsible Technology and Automated Procedures

Objective

- Add imaging and web interface to jury management application - Osceola
- Develop Judicial Dashboard case management system for Judges
- Develop mobile training center
- Provide court reporting coverage for all court facilities from one location
- Configure all Circuit Criminal courtrooms for real-time reporting
- Develop automated traffic arraignment scheduling plan
- Add imaging and web interface to jury management application - Orange
- Develop audio/video network to Branch courthouses
- Provide video courtroom with access to criminal history data
- Develop spreadsheets for domestic calculations and instructions
- Research remote video mediation

Target Date	Status
1st Quarter 2005	Started
1st Quarter 2005	Planning
2nd Quarter 2005	Planning
2nd Quarter 2005	Planning
2nd Quarter 2005	In Queue
2nd Quarter 2005	In Queue
3rd Quarter 2005	In Queue
3rd Quarter 2005	In Queue

Develop and Use Resources Efficiently

Objective

- Establish Unified Family Court - Osceola County
- Review the possibility of a direct file division
- Explore methods for identifying service of subpoenas - Juvenile Court
- Coordinate direct filings between Felony and Juvenile Divisions
- Research the use of school-based probation accountability boards
- Create case management system for domestic violence cases
- Establish uniform/staggered trial periods for Circuit Criminal Division
- Implement departmental inventory system
- Develop Family Division resource manual
- Develop plan for sharing civil courtrooms - Orange County
- Develop video conferencing for GAL appearances
- Develop unified circuit-wide forms for Domestic Division
- Expand Mental Health Court - Osceola County
- Establish Mental Health Court - Orange County

Target Date	Status
1st Quarter 2005	Started
1st Quarter 2005	In Queue
2nd Quarter 2005	Started
2nd Quarter 2005	Started
2nd Quarter 2005	In Queue
3rd Quarter 2005	Started
3rd Quarter 2005	Planning
3rd Quarter 2005	In Queue
4th Quarter 2005	In Queue
4th Quarter 2005	In Queue

Improve Public Access

Objective

- Develop Spanish sub-titles for all court video productions
- Create flyer outlying ADA guidelines
- Develop self-help education programs for pro se litigants
- Establish "A Place For Children" for Osceola County

Target Date	Status
1st Quarter 2005	Started
1st Quarter 2005	In Queue
2nd Quarter 2005	Planning
4th Quarter 2005	In Queue

Enhance Public Trust, Confidence, Relationships, and Professionalism

Objective

- Provide video training for attorneys on using courtroom technology
- Produce informational videos for display in waiting areas
- Produce "State of the Court Address" for Orange TV and the Internet
- Create information directory with maps for each courthouse
- Coordinate case status reporting with Clerk's Office
- Produce historical perspective video on the Ninth Judicial Circuit
- Develop mock trial video for distribution to schools and Orange TV
- Develop "Inside the Courts" program - Osceola County
- Provide audio/video equipment info & schedule on NINJA

Target Date	Status
1st Quarter 2005	Started
1st Quarter 2005	Planning
1st Quarter 2005	Planning
2nd Quarter 2005	Started
2nd Quarter 2005	Started
2nd Quarter 2005	Planning
4th Quarter 2005	Planning
4th Quarter 2005	Planning
4th Quarter 2005	In Queue

Develop and Support Alternative Dispute Resolution Methods

Objective

- Establish Alternative Dispute Resolution Program at Branch Courthouses
- Implement Citizens' Dispute Center (i.e., pre-litigation mediation)

Target Date	Status
2nd Quarter 2005	Started
4th Quarter 2005	Started

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The Ninth Judicial Circuit utilizes many court support programs, in providing assistance and alternatives to the judiciary and the general public. Court Administration's primary objective is to serve the judges of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court by providing programs and services necessary for the daily operation and management of non-judicial court functions. The following are court programs and services offered in the Circuit.



A Place for Children - - A Place for Children is an Orange County funded, on-site childcare facility for families with official court business. Serving more than 1,836 children, this licensed drop-in center allows kids the chance to relax and have fun as an alternative to spending long court sessions listening to adult interactions. The program, which cares for children up to age 14, also provides a link for high-risk families who need to utilize social services. Last year, one-third of the nearly 1,212 families who utilized the center accepted more than 722 referrals. A Place for Children opened in June of 1998. In 2002, the center began providing free childcare for people summoned for jury duty. Reservations are required for jurors' children. The professionally staffed center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and is located on the 2nd floor of the Orange County Courthouse. The Children's Home Society of Florida, a 100-year old non-profit social services agency, operates A Place for Children. For more information, call 407-836-2108.

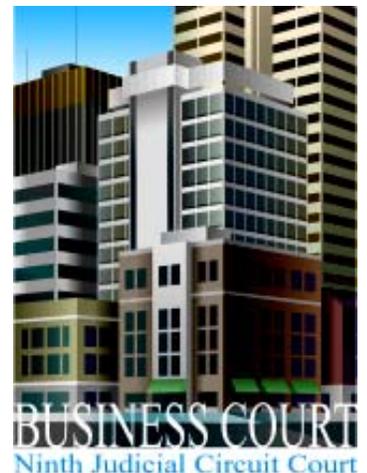
An Afternoon in the Courthouse Seminar - -

This seminar's focus is to provide helpful hints for area attorneys as they practice before the judges of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court. It provides insight into local judicial practices and procedures and is designed to teach new attorneys the "nuts and bolts" of how to successfully navigate the courts. The seminar, presented by the Young Lawyers Section of the Orange County Bar Association, is open to attorneys, law clerks and legal assistants and is offered twice a year. Teams of judges from various divisions teach the seminars. During the past five years, more than 1,500 attorneys, paralegals and law students have participated in these seminars.

Audio/Visual Services - - The Ninth Judicial Circuit's Audio Visual Department is recognized as a world leader in courtroom technology research. Over the past six years, the AV Department has provided remote testimony ability to all courtrooms using a low cost fiber optic solution. The courthouses in Orange and Osceola are linked to allow for video conferencing between locations with the ability to receive and send media feeds. We now have the ability to adjust audio in each courtroom without disrupting court proceedings. To assist in servicing our users, a telephone help desk has been setup in Orange County. The Roger A. Barker Courtroom on the 23rd floor of the Orange County Courthouse is one of the most technologically advanced and integrated courtrooms in the world. The Court AV Department is responsible for providing support in the way of video arraignments and initial appearances, video conferencing, remote depositions, centralized court reporting, media production support, presentation systems and Internet broadcast. An Engineer is available at all times and can be reached at 407-836-0522. For assistance in Osceola County please call 407-343-2530.

Business Court - - In 2005, Business Court was renamed to Complex Business Litigation Court. The Ninth Judicial Circuit's Business Court is the first specialty court in Florida devoted entirely to complex business litigation. It

serves as a sub division of the Circuit Civil Division and was established to hear cases typically more complicated which require a high degree of case management. By limiting its focus to complex business litigation, Business Court provides a streamlined process for resolving corporate and

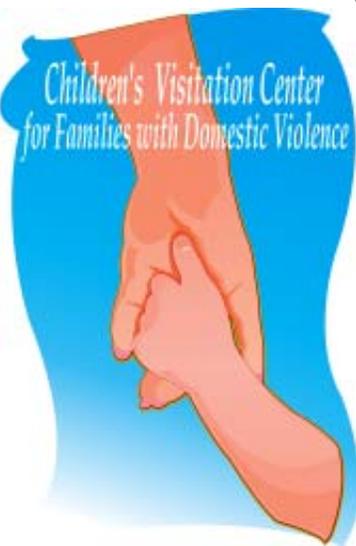


commercial disputes, greatly reducing the time and costs involved in lengthy litigation. Cases in Orange County involving contracts, Article 9 and antitrust suits, intellectual property, franchise disputes or unfair competition disputes are among the cases suitable for adjudication in this court. The court places great emphasis on avenues of alternative dispute resolution and pre-trial settlement, which significantly reduces the costs of court operations. For more information in Orange, call 407-836-2366.

Child Support Hearing Officers - - To alleviate the caseload in the domestic relations division, the Ninth Judicial Circuit utilizes a hearing officer program. This office is responsible for resolving all Department of Revenue related child support enforcement cases. This includes establishment of support and welfare reimbursement obligations and enforcement and modification of existing support orders. Hearing Officers also served as “General Masters” to hear Baker Act petitions until July 2004. A Baker Act hearing is a request for involuntary commitment of a mentally ill person. In Orange County, call 407-836-2287. In Osceola County, call 407-343-3503.

Children’s Visitation Center for Families with Domestic Violence

- - The center opened in Osceola County in February 1999 thanks to a collaborative effort between local government, the school system, law enforcement and the courts. It is a court-operated,



visitation/monitored exchange center, which allows children to spend time with their non-custodial parent in a pleasant and safe atmosphere. The goal is to provide children with an ongoing relationship with both parents, while ensuring safety. Monitored exchange and day visits allow parents to exchange children for the

purpose of visitation, while safeguarding the physical and emotional well being of all family members.

Supervised visitation provides children with a chance to be with mom or dad in a safe, secure and comfortable environment with an observer present to monitor conversations. Since the program began, 651 families and 1,322 children have been served. The supervised visitation center provides services to three courts - - Domestic Violence Court, Domestic Court and Dependency Court - - and requires a court order. To learn more, call 407-343-2467.

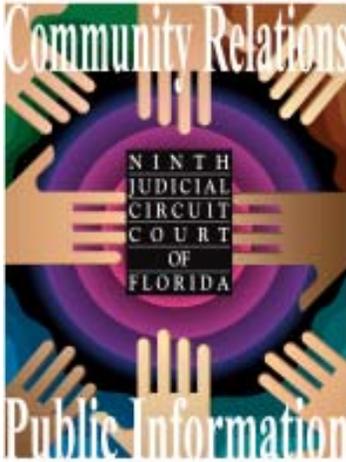
Civil Traffic Infractions Hearing Officer Program

- - The purpose of the Civil Traffic Infractions Hearing Officer Program is to divert less serious civil traffic infractions away from the more formal traffic courts. The Traffic Hearing Officers have the power to accept pleas from defendants, hear and rule upon motions, decide whether a defendant has committed an infraction and adjudicate or withhold adjudication in the same manner as a county court judge. In Orange County, call 407-836-2334. In Osceola County, call 407-343-2400.

Collection Court

- - Collection Court is designed to secure unpaid fines and costs imposed in the criminal justice system. Collection Courts in Orange and Osceola Counties obtain fines and costs in felony and misdemeanor cases, public defender liens, court appointed attorney liens, restitution, county ordinance and municipal ordinance infractions, civil traffic infractions and parking fees. Collection Court reflects the judges’ commitment to the public to ensure that required payments are made in all cases.





Community Relations/Public Information - -

The Ninth Judicial Circuit is committed to educating the public by enhancing the perception and understanding of the Court's roles and responsibilities in the community. A comprehensive Public Information

Program that both inspires public trust and confidence and provides the community with an opportunity to learn about the judicial branch is actively underway in the circuit. Successful community outreach programs and services include: Inside the Courts, Judicial Ride-Along, Speakers Bureau, Town Halls, comprehensive court tours and court publications. In addition, the judges and court staff visited numerous schools and spoke to children from kindergarten to college about our courts and opportunities in the legal profession. In 2004, a Judicial Town Hall was held at the Marks Street Senior Complex with more than 100 people participating. The Court's quarterly news magazine, *Sound Block*, was redesigned at the end of 2004 and has a new name, *Court Illustrated*. *Court Illustrated* highlights the work of the judiciary and staff and provides the community with information on innovations in court management, case processing and outreach. Other publications, such as the Year in Review, Court brochures and the Court coloring book assist in providing a better understanding of the Court's role in the community. The Court continues into the technological realm by adding Jury check-in and welcome videos; various public service announcements on court programs and services; initial appearance and arraignment instructions from a judge in English, Spanish, Creole and Sign Language; circuit highlights to air on Orange TV and informational programs about the court and its programs. In addition, the Court's web site www.ninja9.org offers a wealth of information. For more information on the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court, call 407-836-2047.

Court Appointed Attorney Program - - When the Public Defender has a conflict of interest representing an indigent client; the judge will appoint a criminal defense attorney to the case. Court Administration handled this program until June 30, 2004 when the Legislature changed its direction. This program addressed the appointment process, payment of attorney's fees and costs for indigent defendants in felony, misdemeanor, traffic and juvenile delinquency cases. Judges also appoint attorneys for indigent parties in juvenile dependency cases. The program is now called the Indigent Services Committee, which includes the Chief Judge, Public Defender and two local attorneys, one civil and one criminal, who decide which lawyers qualify to participate in the program.

Court Care Center for Divorcing Families - - The mission of this Orange County program is to decrease conflict and promote emotional stability among divorcing parents for the benefit of their children and themselves. The Court Care Center is

located on the 3rd floor (Room 325) of the Orange County Courthouse and celebrated three years of operation in January 2005. Domestic judges order high-conflict divorcing parents and/or individuals to the Center for Needs Assessment, Parenting Coordination, Crisis

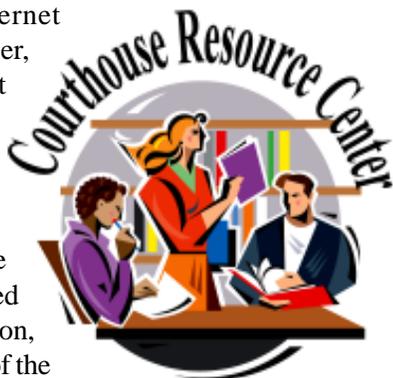


Intervention and Social Investigations. The Center also provides information and referral for community resources. The goal is to reduce the emotional distress of litigating parents seeking emotional help and to improve coping skills and day-to-day functioning. In 2004, more than 400 families were court ordered to the program. Immediate crisis intervention by licensed mental health professionals is available upon request in the courthouse. For information, call 407-836-2120.



Courthouse Law Academy - - Educating the leaders of tomorrow, the Courthouse Law Academy is an active, hands-on opportunity for students to experience a real courtroom and the dynamics of our judicial process. Hosted by a Ninth Judicial Circuit judge, this mock trial program puts young people in charge of the courtroom where they learn the dynamics of a real trial by taking on roles of prosecutor, defense attorney, clerk, juror and even judge to try such cases as the “Cookie Caper” or “Popcorn on the Mind.” The Courthouse Law Academy is a sometimes zany, but always a fun way to learn about our court system and its important role in the community. Additionally, the program emphasizes the importance of the individual and encourages young people to always do their best. The Courthouse Law Academy is available to all school groups and youth organizations and programs are tailored for various age groups. The programs and scenarios are free and tailored to specifically fit an organization’s needs. Reservations are required and group sizes are limited. For more information or to schedule this fun and educational program in Orange County, call 407-836-0521.

Court Resource Center - - The resource center was created to provide a comfortable environment for court visitors to work, perform legal research and obtain information. The Ninth Judicial Circuit Court and the Orange County Bar Association support the center, which offers telephones, computers with Internet access, a printer, copier, fax machine, court brochures and magazines, administrative orders, law books and referral information. The center, which is staffed by Court Administration, is open to all visitors of the



Orange County Courthouse. It is located on the 3rd floor (Room 365). Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In 2004, the Courthouse Resource Center assisted about 32,000 people. The Court’s website has some of the same services online, plus domestic relations court forms, through it’s virtual “Court Resource Center.” Please visit the Virtual Court Resource Center at <http://Ninja9.org/courtadmin/courtresourcecenter/courtresourcecenter.htm>. For more information, call 407-836-0517.

Court Interpreting Services - - The Ninth Judicial Circuit faces the challenge of meeting the rapidly increasing ethnic and linguistic diversity of Central Florida. The Court has responded to the challenge of providing equal access to the courts for non-English speakers by hiring qualified



interpreters, recruiting freelance interpreters and offering orientation workshops for interpreters of all languages. Court Interpreters provide neutral translating services for the Courts. Judges are required to use interpreters in criminal cases for all defendants and witnesses who do not speak or understand English. The program allows a non-English speaking person to participate meaningfully in the judicial process. Court interpreters are not for public hire. They are assigned to cover all circuit and county criminal matters, traffic, initial appearances, domestic violence injunctions and juvenile court. Orange and Osceola Counties utilize staff interpreters for Spanish speakers. On-call contractual interpreters are used when necessary for commonly requested languages or exotic languages. In 2004, interpreters covered nearly 12,500 cases in 38 languages from Albanian to Vietnamese. Spanish was the most frequently used language, followed by Creole, Russian, American

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Sign Language and Portuguese. To learn more, call 407-836-2399 in Orange County or 407-343-2400 in Osceola County.

Court Reporting Services - - The Court Reporting Services Department is responsible for the official record of all court proceedings in the Ninth Circuit. There are four separate offices, which make up Court Reporting Services. They are: (1) Digital Court Reporting, (2) Official Court Reporting, (3) Digital Court Reporting, Juvenile Division, (4) Osceola Court Reporting Services. Most court reporters are professionally certified. One court reporter manager is in charge of all four divisions along with two senior user support analysts – one in Orange County and one in Osceola County – responsible for maintenance and technology of all four departments. All transcripts/duplicate media requests are produced in-house. All four departments combined produced approximately 105,000 pages of appeal and non-appeal transcripts, plus approximately 1,000 CD and taped copies of proceedings in 2004. Court Reporting Services has 44 employees, including 34 Orange County employees and 9 Osceola County employees.

The Official Court Reporting Office has realtime stenograph court reporters and voice-writer trained court reporters. The staff handles all 12 Orange County felony courts plus visiting judges in trial. This department produces annually approximately 57,000 pages of transcript. In Orange, call 407-836-2280. In Osceola, call 407-343-2476.

The Digital Court Reporting Office handles all 12 felony courts not in trial, 12 misdemeanor and traffic courts, domestic violence court, drug court, initial appearances and arraignments, probate and guardianship hearings, mental health and Baker Act hearings, three satellite courts, and visiting judges covering criminal proceedings not in trial. All criminal courts are covered from a central monitoring station. All other courts are covered at the location of the proceeding. This department produces annually approximately 20,000 pages of transcript and 500 CD copies of proceedings. Staffer Ulyn Sawyer, was awarded “Transcriber of the Year” by the American Association of

Electronic Reporters and Transcribers conference in 2004. In Orange, call 407-836-2270. In Osceola, call 407-343-2482.

The Digital Court Reporting Office, Juvenile Division, has one Assistant Managing Court Reporter and two digital court reporters. This department handles five Juvenile courts, both dependency and delinquency, from a central monitoring station. This department produces annually approximately 8,000 pages of transcript and 100 taped copies of proceedings.

The Osceola Court Reporting Services Office in Osceola County covers proceedings from a centralized monitoring station. The department covers two felony criminal courts, two misdemeanor/traffic courts, one juvenile court, one domestic violence court, initial appearances and arraignments, probate and guardianship hearings, and visiting judges covering criminal proceedings. All proceedings, including felony jury trials, are covered digitally with the exception of voir dire, which is covered locally by one of the stenograph court reporters. All staffers in this department are members or certified by the NCRA. This department produces annually approximately 20,000 pages of transcript and 400 CD copies of proceedings.

Courtroom 23 (The Roger A. Barker Courtroom)
The Roger A. Barker Courtroom, located on the 23rd floor of the Orange County Courthouse, is a high-tech



courtroom that seamlessly integrates the latest in technology and has become one of the most advanced and integrated courtrooms in the world. The project began in March 1997, when a contingency from the Ninth Circuit traveled to Williamsburg to tour its preeminent high-tech courtroom. Two years later, after

much planning, discussion and hard work, the Ninth Judicial Circuit formally opened on of the world's most technologically advanced and integrated courtrooms. The courtroom contains the following key elements: evidence presentation system; voice-activated video conferencing; Internet and remote broadcast; digital court reporting; realtime court reporting; video annotation, videoconferencing, touch screen integration, wireless technology, desktop and thin client technology, plasma screens for presentation of evidence and computer legal research.

Custody Evaluation and Investigation - - This program is administered by the Court Care Center for Divorcing Families. Social Investigations are conducted to assist the court in determining residency status and visitation schedules for children of separated or divorced parents where there has been disagreement or conflict between the parents. Social investigations require a licensed mental health professional to conduct interviews with the parents and children and conduct visits of each of the parents' homes. Reports are completed in a 45-day time frame. The Social Investigation program, initiated in late November 2004, is collaborating with 13 community-based Licensed Mental Health Professionals and actively conducting nearly 50 evaluations at the time of this report.

Dependency Case Coordination Program - - This position, under Court Administration, provides administrative, operational and clerical assistance to the juvenile dependency judge. The Department of Children and Families files a petition to intervene or remove the child from parental custody in instances where there are allegations that a child has been abused, abandoned or neglected. If the petition is granted, the department may remove the child until the concerns are resolved. When the case begins, the dependency case coordinator assists indigent parents to obtain court appointed counsel and helps expedite the process for the appointment of a guardian ad litem to represent the best interest of the child. Additionally, the case coordinator acts as a liaison among the parties to promote communication and efficiency, and provides any assistance necessary to resolve problems and avoid unnecessary delays. For more information about this program, call 407-836-9560 in Orange County or 407-343-2531 in Osceola County.

Dispute Resolution Services (Mediation) - -

Mediation is a way to help two parties resolve a dispute through compromise. The mediator, a neutral person, meets with both



sides to encourage discussion and resolution. Mediation programs help decrease the need for additional judges and provide people with an efficient and satisfying alternative to the traditional process. By reaching a settlement, parties avoid the uncertainty of a trial. Mediation is an important part of conflict resolution in a wide range of disputes in the court system. The Circuit has several programs in place utilizing volunteer and professional mediators. In an effort to resolve cases before trial, judges may refer a variety of cases to mediation including, juvenile restitution, county civil, juvenile dependency, criminal restitution, traffic restitution and domestic relations. For information concerning Orange County's Dispute Resolution Services, call 407-836-2004. For information concerning mediation in Osceola County, call 407-343-2451.

County Mediation: Involves all county civil cases, including small claims and landlord/ tenant actions. Small claims are automatically sent to mediation pre-trial, while a judge must refer the remaining cases. In 2004, over 14,000 small claims and county civil cases were referred to mediation in Orange County and over 3000 in Osceola County for a total of over 17,000. More than 75% of the cases mediated reached an agreement.

Family Mediation: Consists of mediation in family cases, including changes made before and after a judge issues a ruling, divorces, paternity, visitation, parental rights, temporary matters and child support issues. In 2004, 2,458 family cases were referred to mediation in Orange County and 894 in Osceola County. More than 70% of those cases mediated reached full or partial agreement.

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Juvenile Dependency: Involves cases with accusations of child abuse, neglect or abandonment. The parents, attorneys, Guardian Ad Litem, assigned to look out for the child's best interests, and the Department of Children and Family Services discuss case plans for reunification or termination of parental rights. In Orange County in 2004, 37 cases were referred to mediation. In Osceola County, 94 cases were referred. 75% of the cases mediated were settled. We suspended Dependency Mediation on July 1, 2004, but are in the process of reviewing restarting the program for a special federal project.

Juvenile, Criminal and Traffic Restitution: Assists with developing payments for damages to victims when juveniles are found guilty or admit wrongdoing. On July 1, 2004 these programs were eliminated due to Revision 7 when they were not funded.

Small Claims Arbitration: A voluntary program for parties in small claims cases as an alternative to judicial action. They may choose to go before a panel of three arbitrators to have the case heard. The process is binding on all parties.

Domestic Violence Unit - - Orange County Court Administration has three staff members who assist the judiciary in managing civil domestic violence cases. This assistance includes: coordinating and scheduling court proceedings; monitoring compliance with the Batterers' Intervention Program and preparing proposed court paperwork when a person fails to attend the program; calculating child support guidelines; preparing and distributing income deduction orders; preparing all proposed injunctions (both temporary and final); preparing judicial court calendars; coordinating and scheduling injunction cases where one or both parties require an interpreter; conducting criminal and civil checks on both parties; and providing information to parties regarding other court services such as mediation, crisis counseling and the Family Ties visitation program, as well as other relevant community resources. For additional information, call 407-836-0579.



Drug Courts - - The Ninth Judicial Circuit recognizes the effectiveness of drug court for adult and juvenile offenders and operates them in both counties.

Adult Drug Court: This is a diversionary program created for nonviolent felony drug offenders who have admitted guilt. It provides for identification, evaluation, case management and the placement of substance abusing offenders into treatment. The drug court judge reviews progress reports and holds biweekly status hearings for participants. Participants who do not comply with the rules appear before the judge for appropriate action. In Fiscal year 2003-2004 in Orange County, an additional 87 defendants were ordered into the program, bringing the monthly average caseload to 203. During this period a total of 118 defendants were discharged of which 94 were successful. This provided for a successful completion rate of 80%. Drug Court programs began in 2000. In Orange County, call 407-836-0501. In Osceola County, call 407-343-2431.

Delinquency Drug Court: When the illegal behavior of juveniles has been exacerbated by substance abuse, select delinquency cases are referred to a special docket handled by a designated judge. The juvenile drug court judge maintains close oversight of each case. This program is part of a court initiative that established interagency cooperation focused on developing a judicial-led treatment program. The four-phase outpatient model includes an aftercare component. Case management personnel make regular school and home visits, and require random urinalysis testing on all participants. The Juvenile Delinquency Drug Court Program was recognized and honored as a "Mentor Court" by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Drug Courts Program Office. In Orange County, for fiscal year 2003-2004, 54 were admitted, 40 were discharged of which 22 were successful graduates for a 55% successful completion

rate. Osceola County began a Juvenile Drug Court Program in October 2003 thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The program has assisted 55 youth since its inception. For Delinquency Drug Court in Orange County, call 407-836-8968. In Osceola County, call 407-343-2544.

Juvenile Reentry Drug Court: The reentry drug court program identifies youths who will be (or have been) committed to a Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) commitment facility and assists their placement in this program as a condition of release. The juveniles are closely monitored by treatment and DJJ staff and must attend biweekly hearings before the designated judge to assess their progress. Participants are required to submit to weekly random urinalysis. The Orange County Juvenile Reentry Drug Court had 61 new admissions in FY2003-2004. There were 53 discharges of which 27 were graduates for a successful completion rate of 51%. The Reentry Drug Court was established through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Court Program Office. For more information in Orange County, call 407-836-8968.

Family/Dependency Drug Court: The Dependency Drug Court program was launched in Orange and Osceola Counties with a goal of reunifying families. Dependency Drug Court serves as a single approach to address the problem of drug use by one or both of a child's parents through monitoring progress and compliance. During FY 2004, Orange County received a DOJ Family Drug Court implementation grant for a 3-year period and those funds will be utilized to expand services. In Orange County, call 407-245-1628 and in Osceola County, call 407-343-2531.

Drug Testing Laboratory: The Osceola County Drug Testing Laboratory was created in conjunction with Osceola County Drug Court as part of the Comprehensive Drug of Abuse (D.O.A.) urine testing system. The lab conducts screenings and analysis for the Drug Court Program, Osceola County Probation Department, Osceola County Pre-Trial Release Program and multiple outside agencies. The Drug Testing Laboratory provides professional urine drug testing services using random screenings and reduces the fiscal cost to clients and the county agencies that mandate drug testing both as part of their business function and their responsibility to public safety. In FY

2004, the Drug Testing Lab processed 992 clients while collecting 7,412 specimens and running 26,655 tests. Of all clients tested, 9.6% tested positive. The lab continued to function even after extensive damage from the hurricanes. For more information in Osceola County, call 407-943-3054.

Facilities Support Services - - Court Administration works closely with various agencies responsible for courthouse facilities by assisting and advising them on issues regarding building repair, growth and needed improvements. This includes work on everything from copiers, telephones and video equipment to air conditioning, elevators and custodial needs. In Orange County, an individual is assigned to monitor and carry out requests ensuring that each facility problem is logged and resolved. A telephone notification system was created in 2004 by facilities support and a select emergency team consisting of judges and managers with the help of Orange County Telecommunications. The system assisted employees during weather emergencies by providing monitored and updated emergency telephone numbers. Both Orange and Osceola counties used the system successfully during three major hurricanes in 2004. Facilities support also handles the training of staff in emergency evacuation procedures. For assistance in Orange, call 407-836-0496. In Osceola, call 407-343-2440.

Family Court Case Management - - Family Court Services manages cases for parties who have filed for a divorce or name change and have chosen not to hire an attorney. The department offers information on mandatory parenting classes and acts as a liaison between social service agencies and the Court. In Orange County, Family Court Services began operating in February 1995. The

intake unit in Osceola County opened in May 1996. In 2004, there were 5,491 divorces in Orange County. Family Court Services managed 3,412 filings. That



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number represents 62% of the divorces filed in Orange County. The office closed 3,184 cases in 2004 for a closure rate of 85% for divorces and name changes. In Osceola County, the unit handled 2,612 cases in 2004. The department also assisted parties on a walk-in basis and advised them about court programs and procedures. To learn more, call 407-836-6054 in Orange County. In Osceola County, call 407-343-2474.

Family Ties - - The concept for the Family Ties Program grew out of the judiciary's concern with the murders of children by family members embroiled in custody disputes. Family Ties is a court-operated, visitation/monitored exchange center, which allows parent-child contact in a friendly environment with assurance for the child's safety.



Family Ties opened in September 1997. Since its inception, the program

has 7,210 completed visits and 2,834 completed exchanges. More than 845 families have been through the program and 1,314 children have received services. Family Ties allows children to spend time with their non-custodial parent in a pleasant, safe atmosphere. The center also provides monitored exchange services for families that need assistance moving children safely from one parent to the other. Participation in Family Ties requires a court order. For information, call 407-836-0426.

Fiscal Services - - This Department is responsible for all fiscal activities for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court, including budgeting, revenue analysis, court



statistics, purchasing and travel. This involves evaluating revenues and monitoring expenditures

from diverse funding sources, including Orange and Osceola counties and the State of Florida. In Orange County, call 407-836-2261. In Osceola County, call 407-343-2440.

Human Resources Department - - This Department is responsible for personnel administration, including employment, classification and pay, employee benefits, employee relations, employee records, and training and development. In addition, the HR Department supervises the Court's Volunteer Management Program. Human Resources is responsible for the Circuit's compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act and for the intake and investigation of discrimination complaints filed under the Circuit's Civil Rights Complaint Procedure. For Human Resources in Orange County, call 407-836-2261 and in Osceola County, call 407-343-2418.

Inside the Courts - - Courthouse visitors interested in learning more about the legal system can participate in this four-part program taught by a team of judges and court personnel. Inside the Courts is a proactive outreach program that gives the judges the opportunity to educate and inform the community of the workings of the court. The program is uniquely designed to allow the citizens of Orange and Osceola counties to meet informally with the judges and have their questions answered about the judicial system. This free program empowers participants by teaching them about the courts and encouraging their trust and confidence. Individuals who complete the program receive certificates recognizing their achievement. Sessions are offered annually and previous programs air regularly on Orange TV. In 2004, 100 people attended Inside the Courts. The program was created in 1998 as part of the Circuit's continued community outreach and since then, more than 1,000 people have taken part in this educational opportunity. To register, call 407-836-0517.



Injunction Processing Unit - - The Injunction Processing Unit, formerly known as the Victim Assistance Program, provides assistance to all victims of crime – including, but not limited to, victims of domestic violence – as they proceed through the criminal justice system, particularly with the injunction for protection process. It is funded by the Clerk of Court and managed by Court Administration. To learn more in Osceola, call 407-343-2464.

Internships - - The Ninth Circuit in Orange County provides internship opportunities for several law students each year. Students, in their second or third year of law school, intern with a judge or group of judges for one semester or summer. They work closely with the judges, observe court proceedings and perform legal research. In Osceola County, internships are offered for college-eligible students to work in departments ranging from Family Court, Information Technology and the Drug Lab. Legal internships are also available. In Orange, call 407- 836-2233. In Osceola, call 407-343-2418.

Judicial Ride-Along Program - - The Ninth Judicial Circuit offers local legislators and elected officials the opportunity to participate in the circuit’s Judicial Ride-Along Program. The purpose is to impress upon elected officials the critical and indispensable role of the courts in the justice system. The program provides them with “a day in the life of a trial judge” and is designed to give them a personal understanding of the daily duties and responsibilities of the trial court judge in relation to the volume, complexity and variety of cases heard. It encourages elected officials to observe the judicial process first hand and to discuss matters of mutual concern. The program is tailored to meet the interests of the participating officials. In 2004, several elected officials participated in the Court’s Judicial Ride-A-Long Program. For more information, call 407-836-2047.

Jury Services - - The Jury Management Program of the Ninth Judicial Circuit was initiated in October of 1990, in response to an administrative order of the Florida Supreme Court to efficiently manage the time

and fiscal resources dedicated to the management of jurors. Through automation and effective management, jurors are utilized more fully resulting in less inconvenience to citizens because fewer people are now summoned for jury service. Prospective jurors called to service can submit an acceptable excuse or request a postponement by sending an email via our Internet web page. In the past, the list of prospective jurors was drawn from the voter registration list. Today, residents are chosen from Florida driver licenses or identification cards issued by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Jurors are required to serve one day or the length of one trial. They are compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per day for the first three days if they are not paid by their employers, are unemployed or self-employed. Payment increases to \$30.00 per day for the fourth and any subsequent days. Prospective jurors report to the jury assembly room before they are assigned to a case and can utilize the Lynx Bus Service for free if they are reporting for duty. In order to prepare for jury service, Orange TV airs a video daily, produced by Court Administration, with juror information. In addition, an orientation video is shown every morning at the Orange County Courthouse. The ninja9.org website allows prospective jurors to check after 5 p.m. for the next day’s reporting instructions.



In Orange County, pagers are available to alert prospective jurors who need to leave the courthouse for a smoke break. This has greatly enhanced the speed in which court staff can send a panel to a judge. Storage lockers allow jurors to lock their personal effects while at lunch. There are also vending machines, pay phones, board games and reading materials to create a more comfortable environment.

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Hook-ups for laptops and cable TV have been added to the jury room. The Cyber Café allows visitors the chance to browse the Internet or play computer games on any one of twenty-two computers. The Orange County Public Library has been donating books for jurors to read/take home as they choose.

In Orange County, free childcare is offered for jurors' children through *A Place for Children*. Reservations are required. In Osceola County, the jury assembly room is also equipped with many amenities, including vending machines, pay phones and complimentary coffee and tea service. Reading material, televisions, board games and a secure smoking area are also provided. Osceola also has a Cyber Café for jurors to enjoy.

For additional information about Jury Services in Orange County, call 407-836-2206. In Osceola County, call 407-343-2423.

Magistrates - - The Ninth Judicial Circuit implemented a magistrate program, which was funded by the Legislature beginning in 2004. The Administrative General Magistrate began the program in July, holding mental health hearings and working closely with the Chief Judge with research and development and to establish workload tracking systems. Five more magistrates were subsequently hired. Two serve in Domestic Relations and Mental Health, one serves in Domestic Relations and Juvenile Dependency, one hears matters referred by judges in the Civil Division and one works in Osceola County in Domestic Relations and Juvenile Dependency. Magistrates hear certain types of cases referred by judges. Magistrates are located on the third floor and utilize five hearing rooms. A large waiting area is also available for litigants. Magistrates' available hearing times are listed on the Ninth Judicial Circuit's website at www.ninja9.org under Judicial Automated Calendaring System. For information, call 407-836-1621.

Media Relations - - It is the Ninth Judicial Circuit's goal to meet the informational needs of the media and public while ensuring the rights of litigants to fair court proceedings are protected and



guaranteeing the operational integrity of the courts. Initial appearances and arraignments are broadcast daily on the Court's web site. Information pertaining to many high profile cases is posted on the Court's web site.

When possible, judicial orders, jury instructions and other relevant court documents are made available to the media in a timely basis either in hard copy or on the Internet. The circuit hosts media workshops to assist journalists in understanding the services and programs offered by the court. The workshops provide media representatives the opportunity to meet the chief judge and others in the circuit and to discuss any topics of concern. A media workshop is planned for 2005 to cover such topics as: the right to bail, Revision 7 issues, procedures and policies for covering court events, as well as technical concerns. Information is provided daily to news media about specific cases, new projects and innovations in the judicial system and the Court's community outreach efforts. For more information, call 407-836-2047.

Mental Health Court

Mental Health Court, which began in Osceola County in 2000, is a diversionary program aimed at helping mentally challenged individuals arrested for non-violent misdemeanor offenses who need treatment

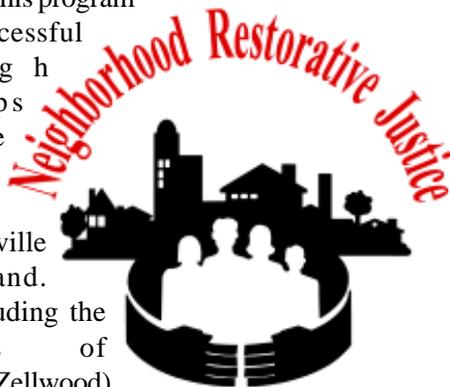


rather than punishment. The Mental Health Court judge is responsible for administering mental health court and coordinating the role of the judiciary with the functions of the various agencies and providers. In Osceola County, call 407-343-2411.

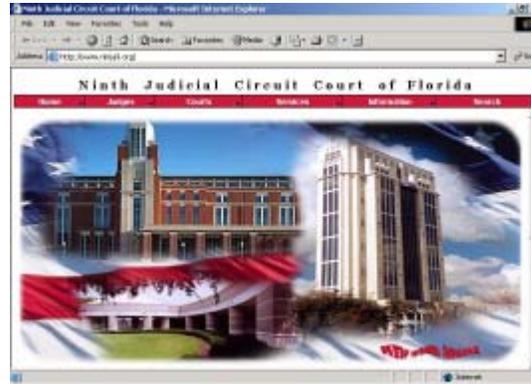
Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program - -

The Neighborhood Restorative Justice (NRJ) Program is a diversionary program primarily for first time misdemeanor juvenile offenders. Restorative justice

diverts less serious crime from the Juvenile Court system while empowering victims and the community with a key role in the justice process. The program requires juveniles to take responsibility for their crimes and make reparations. At the same time, the program builds on the offenders' strengths and assets to make them productive citizens. To be eligible, the juvenile must first admit guilt to the charges and accept responsibility for the harm caused. A conference is scheduled with a Neighborhood Accountability Board, comprised of trained volunteers from the community, the victim, offender, offender's parent(s) or guardian(s) and any community member affected by the crime. The parties discuss and develop appropriate sanctions for the juvenile. These sanctions may include, but are not limited to, a written apology, essay, community service or restitution. A Sanction Coordinator - a law enforcement officer from their respective communities - monitors the juveniles. The juveniles are required to check in once a week in the NRJ Program (which lasts about 90 days). They are assigned curfews, school attendance is mandatory, and they cannot receive any referrals, suspensions or expulsions. If the program is completed, the original charge is dismissed. If not, the case is returned to the state's attorney for prosecution. This program has been successful through partnerships with the police departments of Apopka, Ocoee, Eatonville and Maitland. Apopka (including the communities of Plymouth and Zellwood) was the first Neighborhood Restorative Justice program in Orange County. In 2004, 79 juveniles completed the NRJ Program with the help of the committed volunteers and police officers. For information, call 407-836-9553.



NINJA - - The Ninth Judicial Circuit's Internet web site (NINJA) is an interactive site providing a wealth of information on the judiciary and the courts for a broad-based audience. Information on the site includes administrative orders, judicial biographies, court dockets, publications, press releases, court rulings, statistics, a



video library, statewide web applications and much more. NINJA has been selected again and again as one of the "Top Ten" Court websites in the world and most recently at the International Court Technology Conference (CTC8). NINJA is the only Court website to win the award every year since its inception in 1999. In 2004, the site experienced more than 14-million hits, or nearly 39,000 per weekday. In 2004, the court added talking publications, which allows the sight-impaired to click on various links to learn about some of the court's programs in audio form. In addition, twice daily, the Court broadcasts first appearance hearings live from the Orange County Jail. For kids, Court Administration has developed a Kids Court page that includes children's games like: coloring book, courthouse tour, crossword puzzle, photo gallery, word scramble and a quiz on the courthouse and Ninth Judicial Circuit. The Court's web site is developed and maintained by the courts. Please visit the site at www.ninja9.org.

Ninth In a Nutshell from the JAs - - The Judicial Assistants of the Ninth Circuit use this program to forge an information link between local law offices and the judiciary. Judicial Assistants provide a procedure manual with helpful information about the Circuit, including division assignments, telephone numbers, location of chambers, instructions for the Judicial Automated Calendaring System (JACS), court preferences for each judge and other helpful hints. The 2004 edition includes new procedures for County Court and Business Court. Order forms for the manuals are available on the court's web site under court forms. For more information, call 407-836-2276.

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Parenting Coordination - - The goal of the Parenting Coordination Program is to successfully intervene in highly disputed custody and visitation cases in order for parents to learn to resolve disputes outside the court system as promptly as possible. The program provides services to indigent and low income pro se litigants with family court cases. Parenting Coordination teaches communication, negotiation and practicing agreements through a third party (outside the courtroom) to address contentious parenting issues for parties in high conflict or with a history of domestic violence. The program works to unify parents and reduce stress on children. Parenting Coordination provided approximately 1,000 sessions for high conflict parents and their children. For more information, call 407-836-0553.

Pay Up (Orange) - - Pay Up holds young people accountable for their restitution, court fines and fees, public defender and court appointed attorney costs, and community service as ordered by the Court. The program provides a comprehensive approach to addressing juvenile restitution while teaching valuable lessons and skills to juvenile offenders, ages 10-18 years of age. The Pay Up program helps them obtain jobs through Employability Skills Training classes. The L.E.A.R.N. (Learning, Ethics, Accountability, and Responsibility, Now) component enables youth to earn minimum wage, which is paid directly to the victim through the clerk's office. Court-ordered youth participating in L.E.A.R.N. pull weeds, pick up trash, cut grass, and clean signs under the supervision of Orange County Corrections on a Department of Transportation Youth Work project



contract. Impressively, Pay Up has collected nearly \$1 million in restitution, Crime Compensation Trust Fund, attorney fees and other monies owed. Pay Up is operated by the Orange County Juvenile Division of the Ninth

Circuit through a partnership grant from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. It is a coordinated community effort between the Courts, the Department of Juvenile Justice, Goodwill Industries and Orange County Corrections. Two alternative worksites include the Orange County Sheriff's Mounted Unit and Catalina Park. Despite the hurricanes in 2004, the program was able to collect \$52,956 in restitution, attorneys and court fees. For more information, call 407-836-8972.

Public Guardianship Program - - This program assists indigent senior citizens who need guardians to take care of their affairs but cannot afford to pay for professional guardianship. The Osceola County Council on Aging runs the program in Osceola. Senior's First Inc. runs the program in Orange County. Both work with court personnel, who file paperwork and reports and forward cases to the probate judge. For information in Osceola County, call 407-846-8532. In Orange County, call Seniors First, Inc. at 407-292-0177.

Public Information Booth - - Both Orange and Osceola Courthouses have Public Information booths. The booth located in the rotunda of the Orange County Courthouse has been in operation since December 1998. An information booth at the Thomas S. Kirk Juvenile Justice Center opened in June 2002. Volunteers at the Juvenile Justice Center information booth provide brochures and referral information to assist families and children. In Osceola County, the Public Information Booth is located in the main lobby. Volunteers are recruited and managed by Court Administration to staff the booths. The volunteer coordinator is also a volunteer. Volunteers provide a valuable service to the court, the county and the public. Information booth volunteers in Orange County have logged more than 22,000 hours of time. This has saved Orange County thousands in taxpayer dollars. For information in Orange, call 407-836-2261 and for Osceola, call 407-343-2418.

Sanctioned to Read - - The Ninth Judicial Circuit's Sanctioned To Read program is devoted to improving the reading skills and self-confidence of juveniles who are court-ordered into the programs. Sanctioned to Read was created in August 2003 to achieve literacy for students through a 40-hour tutoring program that is highly individualized and motivational. The program also incorporates diagnostic and prescriptive elements. It is guaranteed to increase a student's reading ability at



least one grade level. Students are tutored in various skills, including: oral (r e c e p t i v e) v o c a b u l a r y, phonics, written vocabulary and comprehension. The program, by design, not only improves reading skills required for

language arts classes, but also helps students in other academic areas where reading comprehension is important, such as social studies and science. When the students' reading skills improve, their self-confidence and self-esteem also improve. Since the program was created, 58 students have completed the entire reading program increasing their grade levels in functional vocabulary and comprehension by 1.4 grades with an age level increase in oral/receptive vocabulary of 1.78. For more information in Orange County, call 407-836-9313.

Speakers Bureau - - As part of the Ninth Judicial Circuit's community outreach efforts, a Speakers Bureau was established to make the courts user-friendly and to enhance the public's perception and understanding of the court's role in the community. The Speaker's Bureau matches judges and other court employees with schools and organizations interested in topics related to the justice system. Members of the judiciary and Court Administration staff are available to speak to schools and community groups on topics of interest. The courts have a major influence on society and daily life and the judiciary can provide insight into how civil and



criminal cases proceed through the court system and how conflicts are resolved. Judges can speak on the following topics: alternative dispute resolution, landlord/tenant issues, small claims, court technology, family law, juvenile justice system, jury service, civil justice system and criminal courts. To request a speaker, call 407-836-0471.

Staff Attorney Department - - Staff attorneys provide integral support to the judiciary by researching legal issues and preparing memoranda on pretrial and trial issues that arise in all divisions of the court. They also assist the judges with other matters such as appeals, writs, post conviction matters and capital cases. In 2004, staff attorneys worked on approximately 364 appeals or writs and more than 1,000 post conviction motions. In addition, the staff spent nearly 5,500 hours researching and writing on trial issues, 3,700 hours on post conviction cases, nearly 5,000 hours on appeals and another 350 hours on capital cases. There are a dozen staff attorneys assigned to the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court.

Technology Services - - The Department of Technology Services provides expertise and comprehensive support for the Court's 37 servers and 500 PCs in six courthouses, spread across two counties. Responsibilities include software and hardware installations and support, web site design/publication/support, training, programming in numerous computer languages, digital court reporting infrastructure, intranet hardware and



software support, advanced networking applications, as well as research and planning for future technology. The Audio/Video section is also part of Technology Services. For the Orange County

Computer Department, call 407-836-6010. In Osceola County, call 407-343-2487.

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Teen Court - - Teen Court is a diversionary program for first-time juvenile offenders who are tried and sentenced by their peers. Teen Court's purpose is to divert less serious cases away from the more formal juvenile court. Teen Court is based on the premise that youthful offenders will more readily accept responsibility for their actions when judged and sentenced by teens their own age. Teenage volunteers, who act as prosecuting and defense attorneys, deputies, clerk and jury, run the

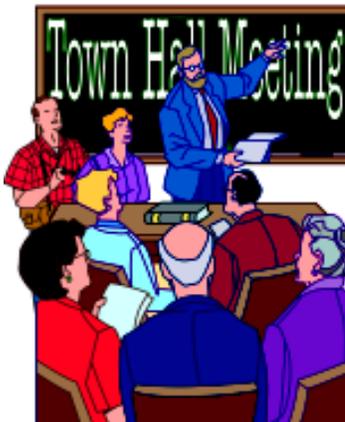


program. The judge is the only adult participant in the proceedings. To be eligible for Teen Court, participants must admit guilt to their misdemeanor charges. The jury determines an appropriate sentence, which may include community service, one day boot camp, jail tour, drug testing, road crew trash detail, abiding by a curfew, serving on a Teen Court jury, making restitution, writing a report, or apologizing. If the sentence is completed, the original charge is dismissed. If not, the case is turned over to Juvenile Court. Judges and attorneys volunteer time to preside over the hearings. Orange County's Teen Court offers free anger management classes for defendants and parenting classes for parents. The Orange County program is the largest in the state, both in number of cases and number of volunteers. The Orange County program handled 1,276 criminal cases in 2004 and has 60-100 teen volunteers. The Osceola program handled 886 criminal cases last year and its adult/teen volunteers donated a total of 6,936 hours of service. Volunteers earn one-half a high school credit for working 75 hours in a school year and qualify for the Thomas S. Kirk Teen Court Scholarship. For Orange County, call 407-836-9517 and for Osceola County, call 407-343-2465.

Tours - - Court Administration provides organized tours of the Orange and Osceola county courthouses to schools, community organizations and the general public. A written tour guide provides a floor-by-floor directory. The Court also offers comprehensive tours of the Orange County Courthouse, via its web site (NINJA). Tour stops include the rotunda, the jury assembly room, courtrooms, judicial chambers, the judicial conference room, and the computer room. The highlight of the tour is a stop in the Court's high-tech courtroom. To take a virtual tour, simply visit www.ninja9.org and select Virtual Tours. With mouse in hand, a virtual courthouse visitor can traverse the 1,000,000 square foot complex from a remote location without ever leaving his or her desk. To schedule a tour of the Orange County Courthouse, call 407-836-2380. For tours of the Osceola County Courthouse, please call 407-343-2413.



Town Hall Meetings - - Town Hall meetings provide an excellent opportunity for judges and citizens to come together and openly discuss concerns and issues regarding the judicial process. The meetings, which generally focus on a targeted section of the community, provide citizens with a unique view into the workings of the court. In exchange, citizens can express their views to the judiciary, which helps the judges better understand the community's perceptions of the court. Previous Town Halls have included panel discussions, question and answer sessions, personal meet and greet opportunities and a "get to know your legal community fair," with booths from local community assistance and legal organizations. For information on upcoming Town Halls in Orange County, call 407-836-0517.



Truancy Court (Orange) - - The program, which was utilized through June 30, 2004, was established to reduce truancy among program participants. Truancy is a key issue in the reduction of delinquency. It also addresses issues of inappropriate school environment, unhealthy family relationships and inappropriate parenting. In 2001, the Ninth Judicial Circuit, in cooperation with the Orange County Youth and Family Services Division and the Orange County Public Schools, established a Truancy Court to provide a forum to hear and rule on Truancy Petitions filed against minor children alleged to be skipping school. A general master heard and made recommendations to the Court on punishments for truants. The program provided participants and their families with services, intervention, and case management. In FY 2003-2004, Truancy Court served 199 students with an 89 percent success rate.



Unified Family Court - - The Osceola County Court Administration has two staff members who assist in Unified Family Court by supervising, coordinating, directing and overseeing the process and progress of cases involving children and families. It links together all pending court issues associated within a family for the Court's review and consideration. For information, call 407-343-2531.

Volunteer Program - - The Ninth Judicial Circuit's Volunteer Program is committed to promoting community awareness of, and involvement in, the judicial system. The Court acknowledges the value of community support and its role in an effective and fair judicial system. Court volunteers save taxpayers thousands of dollars each year through their service. Court volunteers work in the information booths at the courthouses, conduct tours and assist with Teen Court in Orange and Osceola counties, the Neighborhood



Restorative Justice Program and the Guardian Ad Litem Program in Osceola County. For Orange County, call 407-836-2261. For Osceola County, call 407- 343-2413.

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For more information about the Ninth Judicial Circuit, please visit our award-winning web site at www.ninja9.org.