

THE NINTH

NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

THE COUNTIES OF ORANGE & OSCEOLA

2006 YEAR IN
REVIEW & 2007
REFERENCE GUIDE

Dear Citizens of Orange and Osceola counties:

Welcome to the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court 2006 Year in Review and 2007 Reference Guide. I am pleased to present this publication on behalf of the Judiciary.

We would appreciate it if you take the time to read this report. This important document is printed annually to assist you in becoming familiar with our court system, programs and services and how we function to serve your best interests. We have included a photo directory of our judges, quick reference phone listings and our future goals and past accomplishments. We hope you will use it as a reference guide year round.

As the fastest growing circuit in the state, we are continually looking for new ways to streamline the judicial process and improve case management. In 2006, the Legislature granted us a full complement of judges requested by our circuit and approved by the Florida Supreme Court. We added judicial assistants and staff attorneys. In the past year, we opened three courtrooms in the Booking & Release Center at the Orange County Jail and have nearly completed an expansion to the Thomas S. Kirk Juvenile Justice Center.

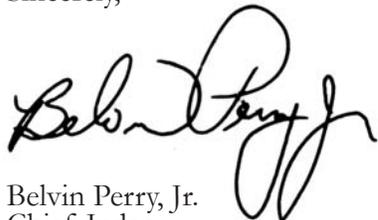
With that in mind, we created a Juvenile Commission to study crime among our youth in order to find ways to reduce this growing problem. In 2007, we will cut the ribbon on the Domestic Injunction Division of our Unified Family Court to make high conflict family cases safer in a more private setting. We have asked for one additional circuit judge and one additional county judge in 2007 to keep pace with the mounting, complex caseload.

As our community grows, we look to expand our staff with more case managers to ensure cases move along smoothly. As one of the three branches of government, we are pushing for parity in pay. We have fallen behind in securing funding in this area. We want to attract and retain the best people to keep pace in an equitable and fair manner with the executive and legislative branches.

It has been nine years since the Orange County Courthouse opened amid much fanfare. This year we will build out space for four new chambers as we move closer to reaching capacity. Our technology continues to be at the forefront of court systems around the country. We have added wireless Internet access for our jurors and the Judicial Dashboard to assist in managing dockets and caseloads. Our court never stops in its efforts to provide you with the best in every area.

I am very proud to serve as your chief judge and look forward to great challenges and achievements in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Belvin Perry, Jr.
Chief Judge





NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF FLORIDA

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MISSION STATEMENTS

The mission statement of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court is to fairly and impartially administer justice and resolve disputes brought before the court.

The mission statement of Court Administration is to efficiently and effectively provide comprehensive administrative support to all the judges of the circuit, to manage programs and to act as a liaison between the Court and the people it serves.

CIRCUIT FACTS

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

Circuit and County Court

As a court of general jurisdiction, the Circuit Judges serving in the Ninth Judicial Circuit preside over felonies and misdemeanors, traffic, probate matters, juvenile proceedings, family court and civil actions of law where the amount in dispute exceeds \$15,000. Divisions include:

Circuit Criminal Division - - In the Circuit Criminal Division, judges preside over felony cases.

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

Domestic Relations - - In the Domestic Relations Division, judges preside over cases involving family issues, including domestic violence allegations.

Juvenile Division - - In the Juvenile Division, judges preside over cases of delinquency and dependency.

Probate Division - - In the Probate Division, judges preside over the processing of wills, settlement of estates, guardianship, mental health cases and involuntary civil commitments of sexually violent predators.

County Court is divided into two divisions:

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

Criminal Division - - In the Criminal Division, judges preside over misdemeanors, traffic infractions and law violations.



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

Thomas S. Kirk
Juvenile Justice Center
2000 East Michigan Street
Orlando, Florida 32806
407-836-7590

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

Branch Courthouse/Apopka
1111 North Rock Springs Road
Apopka, Florida 32712

Branch Courthouse/Ocoee
475 North Story Road
Ocoee, Florida 32761

Branch Courthouse/Winter Park
450 North Lakemont Avenue
Winter Park, Florida 32789



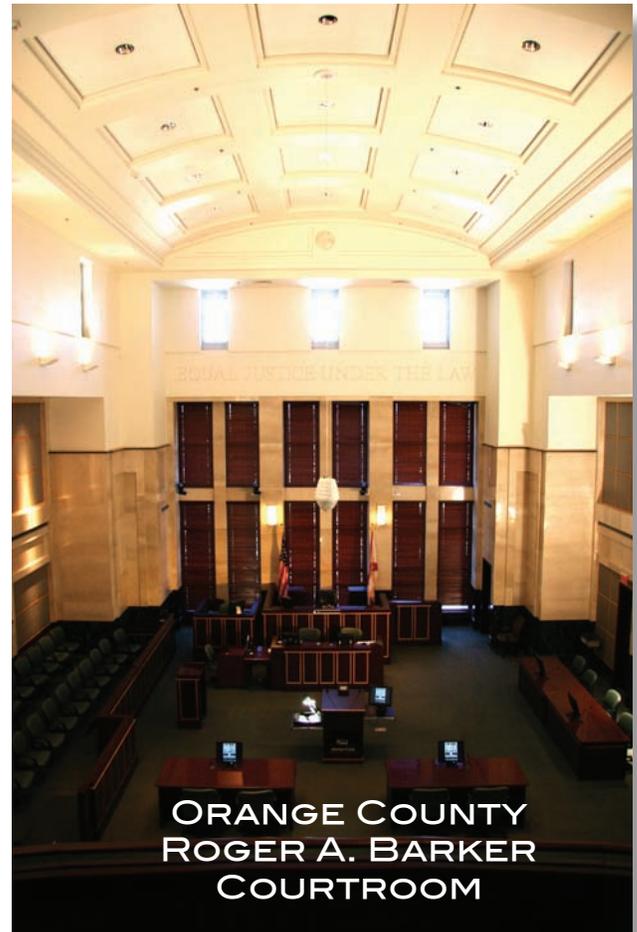
Central Florida is home to the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court, which serves Orange and Osceola counties, as the state trial court with jurisdiction over criminal and civil cases. The third largest circuit of the state's 20 judicial circuits, the court's authority covers 2,000 square miles of Central Florida and more than 1.3 million residents.

Adding to its year round population, Central Florida is the top tourist destination in the world. The area had more than 50 million visitors who came for business or pleasure in 2006. The Orlando area boasts 99 attractions and 176 golf courses.

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. Approximately 30 percent of the population falls in the 25-44 age range. Both counties are racially and ethnically diverse. Hispanics represent more than 35 percent of residents in Osceola County and more than 20 percent in Orange County. African Americans equal 18 percent of residents in Orange County and 7 percent in Osceola County, followed by Asians and American Indians.

Orlando International Airport (OIA) is one of the fastest growing major metropolitan airports in the country. OIA is 24th in the world in passenger traffic, and the 4th largest domestic origin and destination market in the United States, according to Seabury Airline Planning Group. In addition, OIA offers 60% more scheduled domestic departures per day than any other Florida airport.

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



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. Since 1995, the Ninth Judicial Circuit has requested 57 judges to meet the mounting workload. During that period, the Florida Supreme Court, through the Delphi Study, recommended 47 judgeships for the Ninth Circuit while the Legislature funded 20 new positions.

The Florida Supreme Court in Tallahassee is the state's highest court; five district courts have appellate jurisdiction in Tallahassee, Lakeland/Tampa, Miami, West Palm Beach and Daytona Beach. There are 20 circuit courts that cover Florida's 67 counties. Each area has magistrates and hearing officers. As the state continues to grow, the addition of judges ensures the efficiency and performance of a state court system that citizens deserve. To fulfill its constitutional mandate to resolve cases in a fair, impartial and timely manner, it is essential for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court to continue to grow to meet the needs of the vibrant community it serves.



COURT GUIDE



Orange County Courthouse

The 23-story **Orange County Courthouse** is located in downtown Orlando. The courthouse has 48 courtrooms and 24 hearing rooms and a special purpose courtroom with state of the art technology on the 23rd floor. Circuit and county judges preside over criminal, civil, domestic and traffic cases. 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 and a branch of the Orange County Sheriff's Office are located in the main building.

Osceola County Courthouse

The **Osceola County Courthouse** is located in downtown Kissimmee. The courthouse has twelve courtrooms. Circuit and county judges preside over criminal, civil, domestic and traffic cases. In addition, the building contains the Clerk of the Court, State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Court Administration and the Osceola County Sheriff's Judicial Services Division.

Thomas S. Kirk Juvenile Justice Center

The **Thomas S. Kirk Juvenile Justice Center** (Juvenile Court) is a one-story building located at 2000 E. Michigan Street in Orlando, south of the main courthouse. Judges here preside over Orange County delinquency and dependency cases, in which the petitioner is generally the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The Clerk of Court, State Attorney, Court Administration, Department of Juvenile Justice and Orange County Public Schools have offices in the building. The court 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.

Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida at Branch Courthouses

Orange County Court judges travel to the three satellite courtrooms in Ocoee, Apopka and Winter Park to hear traffic and misdemeanor arraignments. In addition, hearing officers travel to the satellite courts to hear traffic infraction cases. The Ocoee and Apopka Branch Services buildings were built at the same time and are identical.

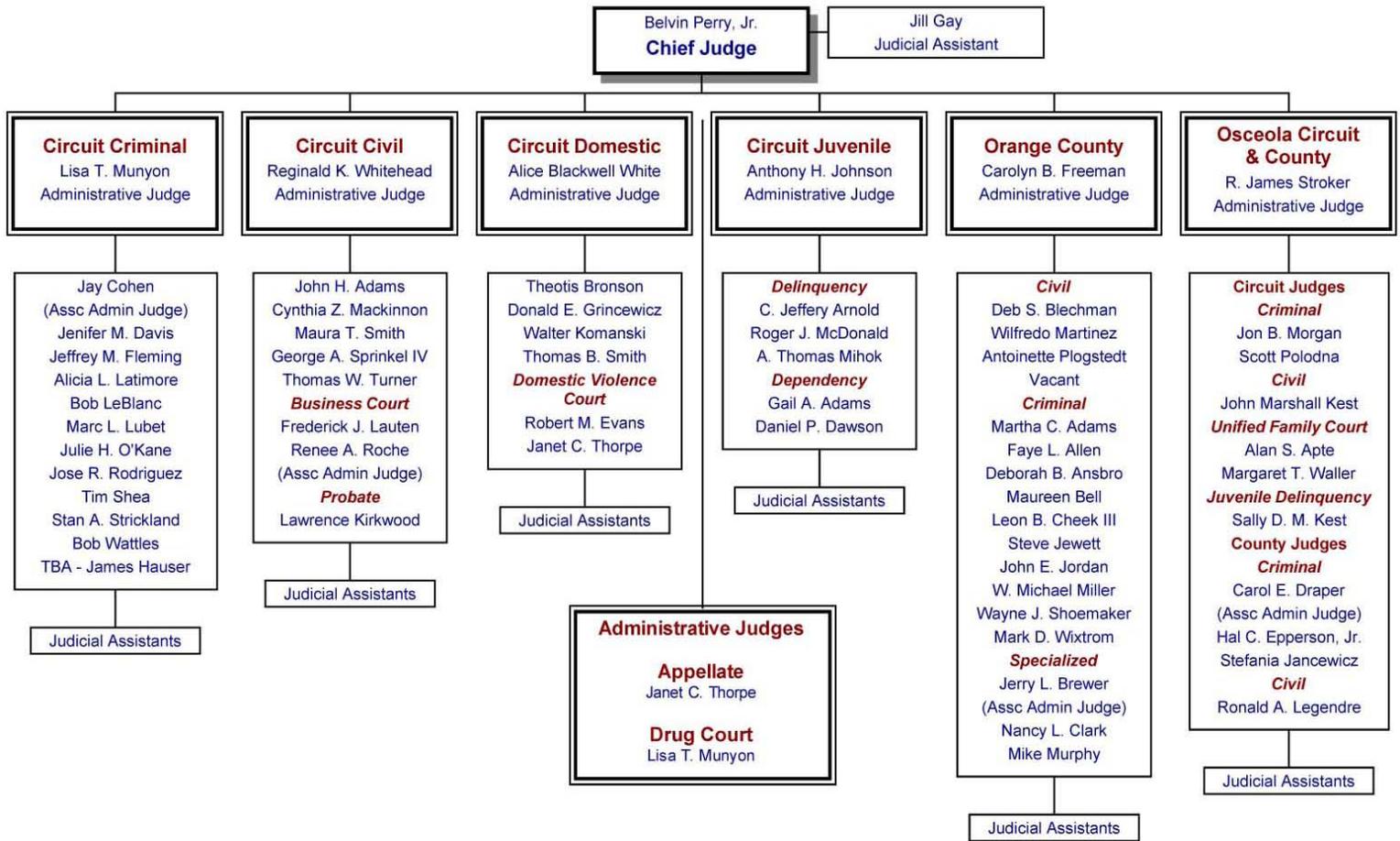
The **Ocoee Branch Courthouse** is located at 475 North Story Road in Ocoee and was dedicated in 1975. Traffic hearing officers hold infraction hearings on Mondays, and judges hear court matters on Wednesdays. The building houses offices for the judge and hearing officer, an arraignment courtroom, the 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 Clerk of the Court office processes all county court matters, including traffic, misdemeanor and civil cases involving disputes less than \$15,000, passports, landlord/tenant evictions, and marriage licenses.

The **Apopka Branch Courthouse** is located at 1111 North Rock Springs Road in Apopka and was also dedicated in 1975. Traffic hearing officers hold infraction hearings on the fourth Tuesday of every month, and judges hear court matters on Thursdays. The building houses offices for the 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 licenses in this building. The Clerk of the Court processes all county court matters, including traffic, misdemeanor and civil cases involving disputes less than \$15,000, passports, landlord/tenant evictions, and marriage licenses.

The **Winter Park Branch Courthouse** is located at 450 North Lakemont Avenue in Winter Park. The Clerk of the Court moved there in 1991 and the courts began operation in 1992. Prior to that, Winter Park court cases were heard at the Winter Park City Hall, and the Clerk of the Court was housed across the street. Traffic hearing officers hold infraction hearings on Tuesdays, and a judge hears court matters on Fridays. The building houses offices for the judge and hearing officer and an arraignment courtroom. The State of Florida renews driver licenses at this location. The Clerk of the Court processes all county court matters, including traffic, misdemeanor and civil cases involving disputes less than \$15,000, passports, landlord/tenant evictions and marriage licenses.



JUDICIAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES SERVING IN 2006

Honorable Jay P. Cohen – Circuit Civil Division
 Honorable Richard F. Conrad – Criminal Division
 Honorable Lisa T. Munyon – Associate Criminal
 Honorable Maura T. Smith – Juvenile Division
 Honorable Alice Blackwell White – Family Court Division
 Honorable Jeffords D. Miller – Osceola County
 Honorable Reginald Whitehead – Drug Court
 Honorable Janet C. Thorpe – Appellate Division
 Honorable Carolyn B. Freeman – Orange County
 Honorable Jerry L. Brewer – Orange County Associate

ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES SERVING IN 2007

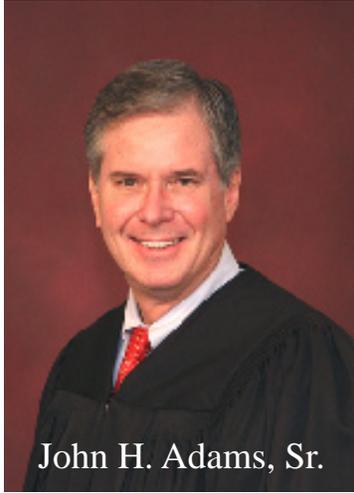
Honorable Reginald K. Whitehead – Circuit Civil Division
 Honorable Renee A. Roche – Associate Civil
 Honorable Lisa T. Munyon – Criminal Division
 Honorable Jay P. Cohen – Associate Criminal
 Honorable Anthony H. Johnson – Juvenile Division
 Honorable Alice Blackwell White – Family Court Division
 Honorable R. James Stroker – Osceola County
 Honorable Carol Engel Draper – Associate Osceola County
 Honorable Lisa T. Munyon – Drug Court
 Honorable Janet C. Thorpe – Appellate Division
 Honorable Carolyn B. Freeman – Orange County
 Honorable Jerry L. Brewer – Orange County Associate

JUDICIARY



Gail A. Adams

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



John H. Adams, Sr.

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



Martha C. Adams

Orange County Judge:
2007-present
JD: Nova Southeastern
University
BA: Rollins College
Major: Politics



Faye L. Allen

Orange County Judge:
2005-present
JD: Florida State University
BA: Florida A&M University
Major: Criminology



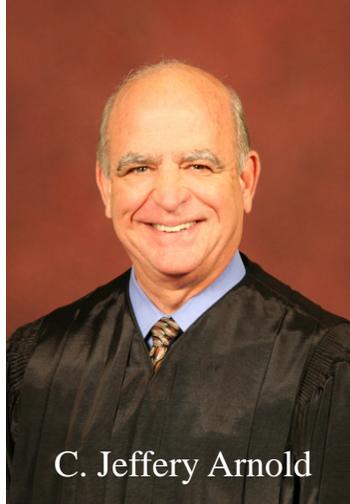
Deborah B. Ansbro

Orange County Judge:
2006-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of
Central Florida
Major: History



Alan S. Apte

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



C. Jeffery Arnold

Circuit Judge: 2007-present
County Judge: 1994-2007
JD: Florida State University
BA: College of William
and Mary
Major: Pre-Law



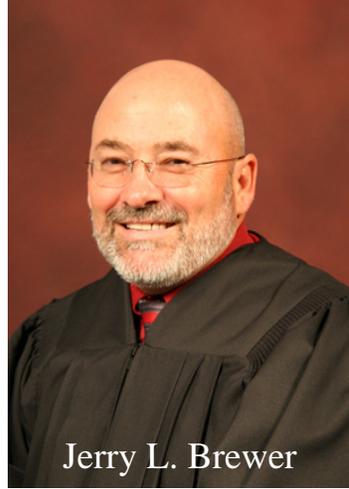
Maureen Bell

Orange County Judge:
2007-present
JD: University of Florida
MS: Biscayne College
(St. Thomas University)
BA: University of Florida
Major: Special Education



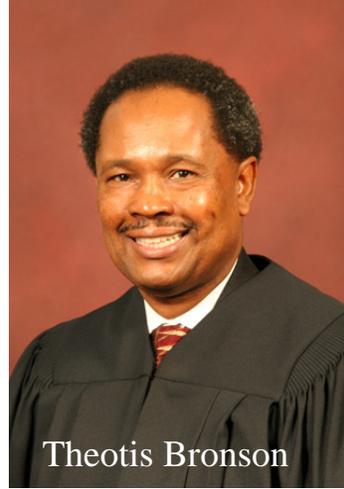
Deb S. Blechman

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



Theotis Bronson

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



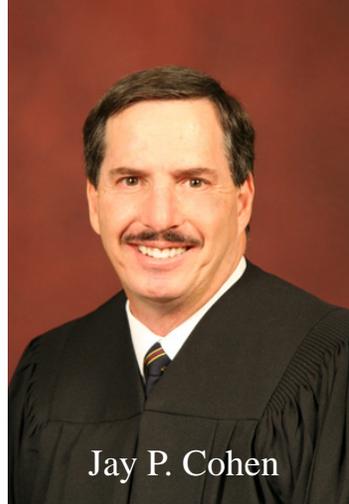
Leon B. Cheek III

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



Jay P. Cohen

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



Jenifer M. Davis

Circuit Judge: 2007-present
JD: University of Florida
MA: University of Florida
BA: University of Florida
Major: Criminal Justice



Daniel P. Dawson

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

JUDICIARY



Carol Engel Draper

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



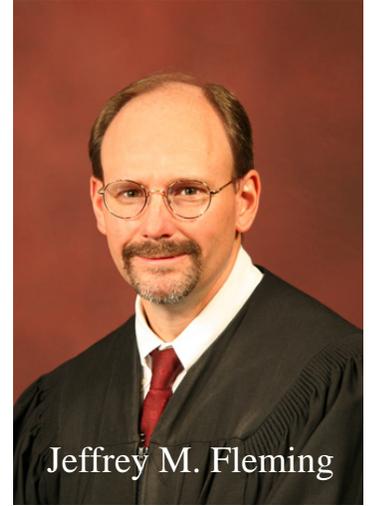
Hal C. Epperson Jr.

Osceola County Judge:
2007-present
JD: Stetson University
BA: Stetson University
Major: Political Science



Robert M. Evans

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



Jeffrey M. Fleming

Circuit Judge: 2005-present
County Judge: 2002-2005
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



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



Stefania Jancewicz

Osceola County Judge:
2006-present
JD: Stetson University
BA: Flagler College
Major: Secondary
Education/English



Steve Jewett

Orange County Judge:
2007-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of Florida
Major: Political Science



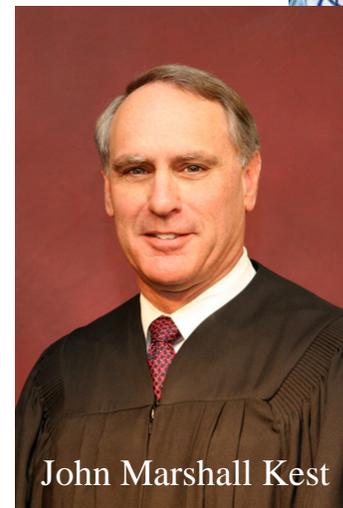
Anthony H. Johnson

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



John E. Jordan

Orange County Judge:
2005-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of South Florida
Major: Political Science



John Marshall Kest

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



Sally D. M. Kest

Circuit Judge: 2007-present
JD: Florida State University
BA: Florida State University
Major: Government



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

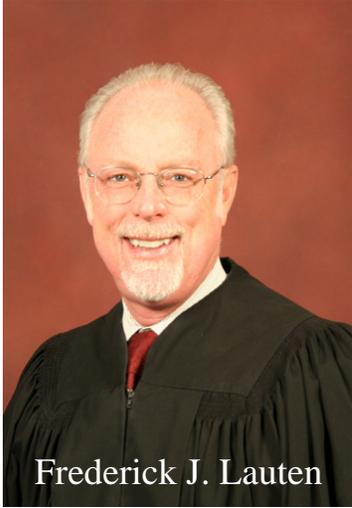
Circuit Judge: 1985-present
County Judge: 1981-1985
JD: John Marshall Law School
BA: University of
Central Florida
Major: Communications/
Political Science



Alicia L. Latimore

Circuit Judge: 2006-present
JD: University of Florida
BS: Duke University
Major: Psychology

JUDICIARY



Frederick J. Lauten

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



Bob LeBlanc

Circuit Judge: 2007-present
JD: University of Miami
BA: Bradford College
Major: Political Philosophy



Ronald A. Legendre

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



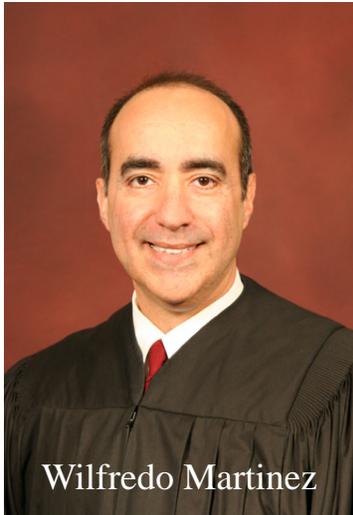
Marc L. Lubet

Circuit Judge: 2007-present
JD: University of Mississippi
BS: University of Florida
Major: Journalism



Cynthia Z. Mackinnon

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



Wilfredo Martinez

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



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



W. Michael Miller

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



Jon B. Morgan

Circuit Judge: 2005-present
County Judge: 1998-2005
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of Florida
Major: Political Science



Lisa T. Munyon

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



Mike Murphy

Orange County Judge:
2005-present
JD: University of Florida
BS: University of Florida
Major: Management



Julie H. O'Kane

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



Belvin Perry, Jr.

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



Antoinette Plogstedt

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



Scott Polodna

Circuit Judge: 2006-present
JD: University of Florida
BS: University of Florida
Major: Psychology

JUDICIARY



Renee A. Roche

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



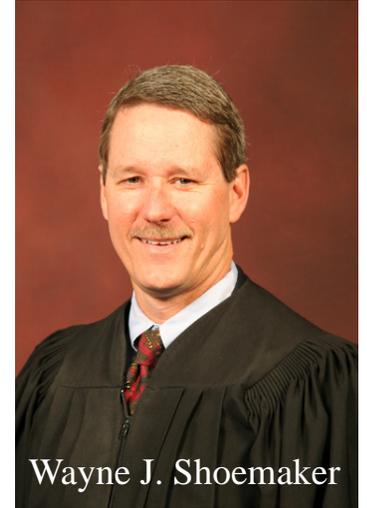
Jose R. Rodriguez

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



Tim Shea

Circuit Judge: 2007-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of
Central Florida
AA: Valencia Community
College
Major: Political Science



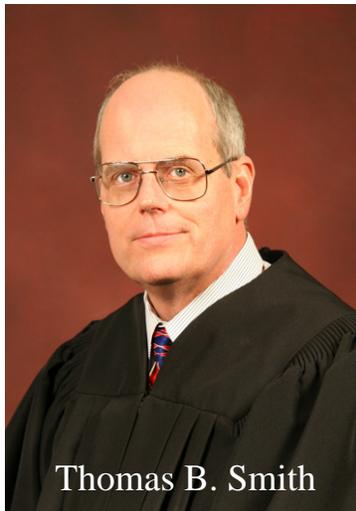
Wayne J. Shoemaker

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



Maura T. Smith

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



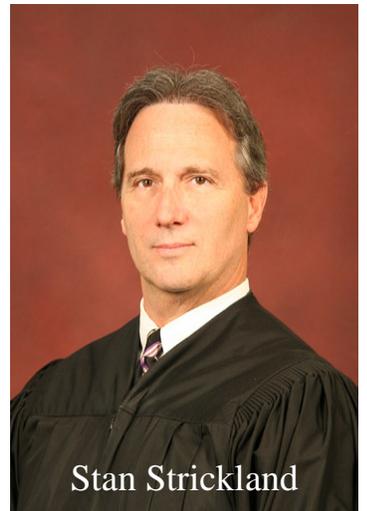
Thomas B. Smith

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:
1991-1995
JD: Mercer University
MA: Florida State University
BA: Florida State University



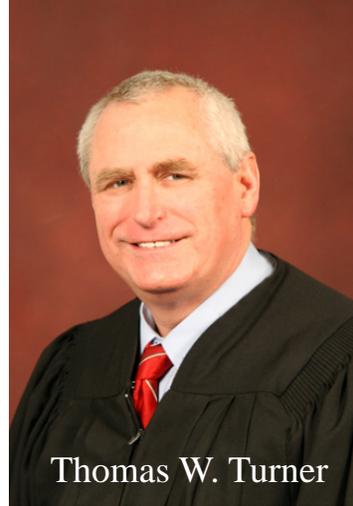
R. James Stroker

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



Janet C. Thorpe

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



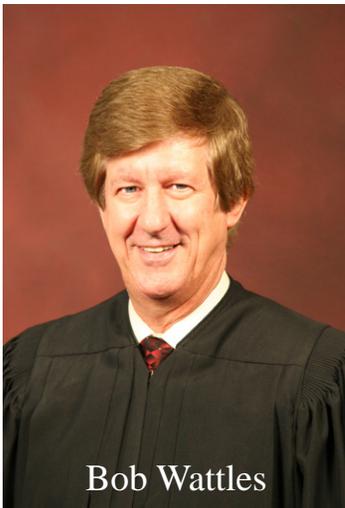
Thomas W. Turner

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



Mark D. Wixtrom

Orange County Judge:
 2006-present
 JD: University of Florida
 BA: University of South Florida
 Major: Political Science

ACTIVE SENIOR JUDICIARY

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. Retired judges who return to the practice of law are not permitted to serve as senior judges.



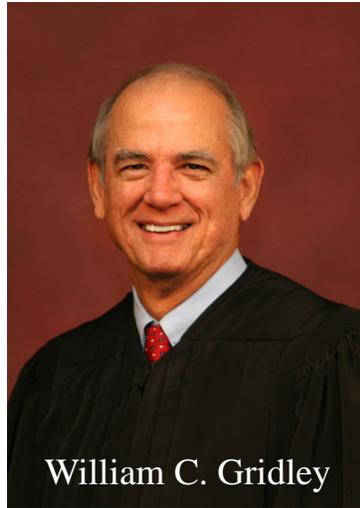
Ted Coleman

Senior Judge: 2003-present
 Circuit Judge: 1983-2002
 County Judge: 1973-1979
 JD: University of Florida
 BA: University of Florida
 AA: Brevard
 Community College
 Major: Advertising



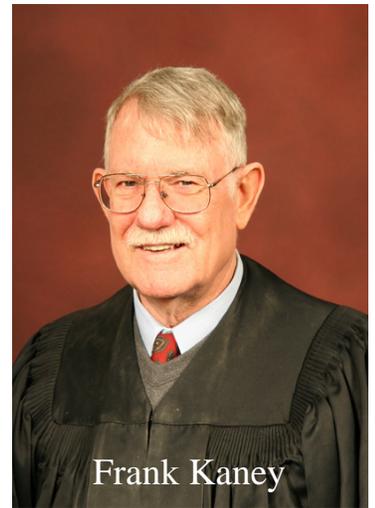
Richard F. Conrad

Senior Judge: 2007-present
 Circuit Judge: 1988-2006
 County Judge: 1986-1988
 JD: Stetson University
 BA: St. Louis University
 Major: Zoology &
 Chemistry



William C. Gridley

Senior Judge: 2007-present
 Circuit Judge: 1973-2006
 Juvenile Judge: 1972-1973
 JD: University of Florida
 BA: University of Florida
 Major: Political Science



Frank Kaney

Senior Judge: 2001-present
 Circuit Judge: 1977-2000
 County Judge: 1973-1977
 JD: University of Miami
 BA: Florida State University
 Major: Speech Communications



Thomas R. Kirkland

Senior Judge: 2007-present
 County Judge: 1977-2006
 JD: Stetson University
 BS: University of Florida
 Major: Industrial Management



Jeffords D. Miller

Senior Judge: 2007-present
 Circuit Judge: 1987-2006
 JD: Cumberland Law School
 MA: Rollins College
 BA: Rollins College
 Major: History & Government



Frederick Pfeiffer

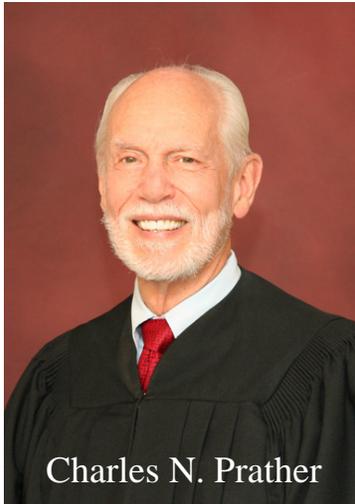
Senior Judge: 1994-present
 Circuit Judge: 1973-1993
 JD: George Washington
 University
 BA: University of North
 Carolina Chapel Hill
 Major: History



Rom W. Powell

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

ACTIVE SENIOR JUDICIARY



Charles N. Prather

Senior Judge: 2002-present
Circuit Judge: 1990-2001
County Judge: 1983-1989
JD: Stetson University
BA: Stetson University
Major: Economics



Dorothy J. Russell

Senior Judge: 2003-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



Janis Mary
Halker Simpson

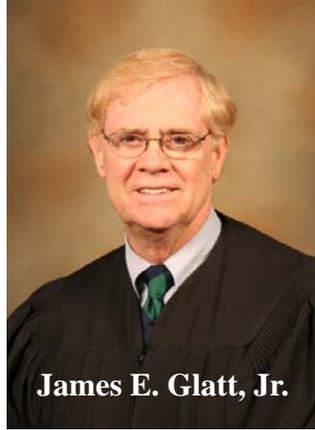
Senior Judge: 2005-present
County Judge: 1979- 2005
JD: University of Florida
MA: Rollins College
MA: Loyola University
BA: University of Florida
Major: Sociology



MAGISTRATES



Howard Friedman



James E. Glatt, Jr.



Maria Hinds



Linh Ison



Odessia Joyner



Anthony J. Moreno

HEARING OFFICERS



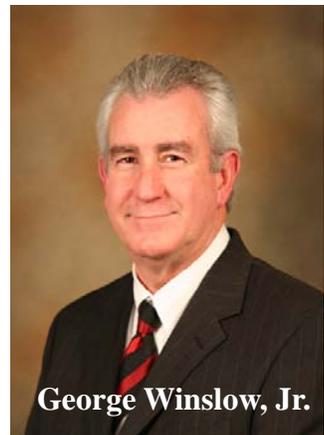
Christine Groves



Steven Jablon



Norberto Katz



George Winslow, Jr.



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, case management, legal research, court technology, dispute resolution, and court interpreting. 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.



NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATION TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Administrative Offices (Orange County) 407-836-2050
Administrative Offices (Osceola County) 407-343-2400

ORANGE COUNTY

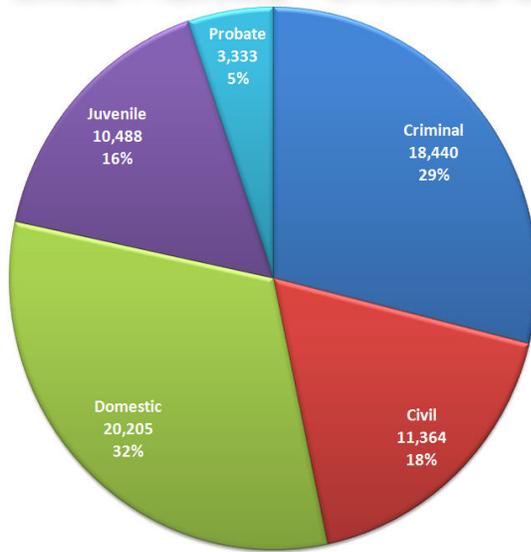
Audio/Visual Services 407-836-0522
 Business Court 407-836-2366
 Child Support Hearing Officers 407-836-2287
 Court Interpreting Services 407-836-2399
 Digital Court Reporters 407-836-2270
 Official Court Reporters 407-836-2280
 Court Resource Center 407-836-0517
 Dispute Resolution Services (Mediation) 407-836-2004
 Drug Court 407-836-0419
 Family Court Case Management 407-836-6054
 Family Ties Program 407-836-0426
 Human Resources/Fiscal Services 407-836-2261
 Information Booth 407-836-0472
 Juvenile Court Services 407-836-7590
 Jury Services 407-836-2206
 Magistrates 407-836-2024
 Neighborhood Restorative Justice 407-836-9553
 Pay-Up 407-836-8972
 Parenting Coordination 407-836-2116
 Sanctioned To Read 407-836-9313
 Technology Services 407-836-6010
 Teen Court 407-836-9517
 Traffic Infraction Hearing Officers 407-836-2334

OSCEOLA COUNTY

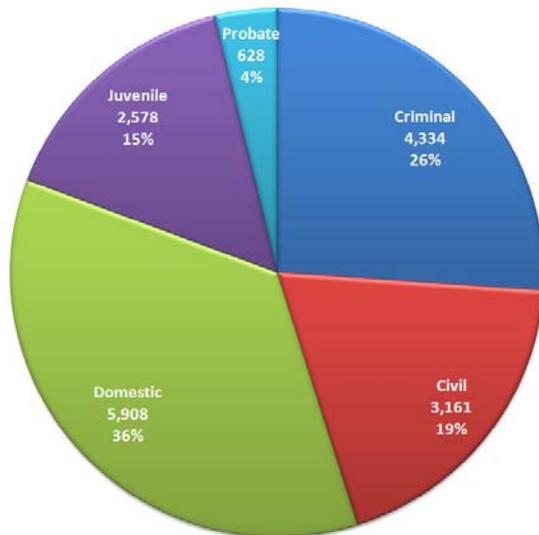
Audio/Visual Services 407-343-2530
 Children’s Visitation Center 407-343-2467
 Court Interpreters 407-343-2400
 Court Reporting Services 407-343-2482
 Dispute Resolution Services (Mediation) 407-343-2451
 Drug Court 407-343-2431
 Family Court Services 407-343-2538
 Jury Services 407-343-2421
 Magistrate 407-343-2428
 Technology Services 407-343-2488
 Teen Court 407-343-2465
 Traffic Infraction Hearing Officer 407-343-2400

OVERVIEW OF CASE FILINGS IN THE 9TH CIRCUIT

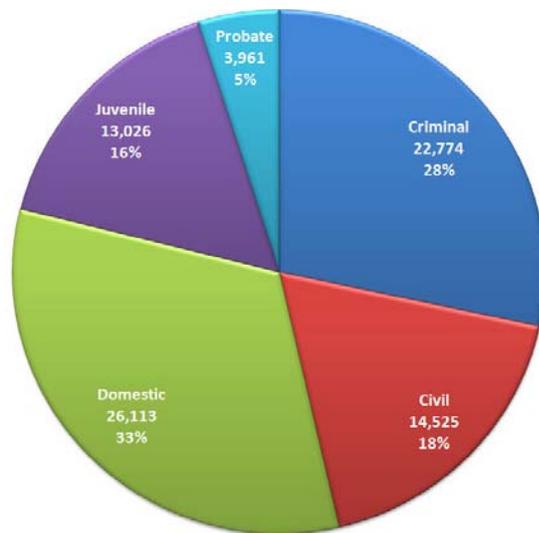
CIRCUIT CASE FILINGS - ORANGE COUNTY 2006



CIRCUIT CASE FILINGS - OSCEOLA COUNTY 2006



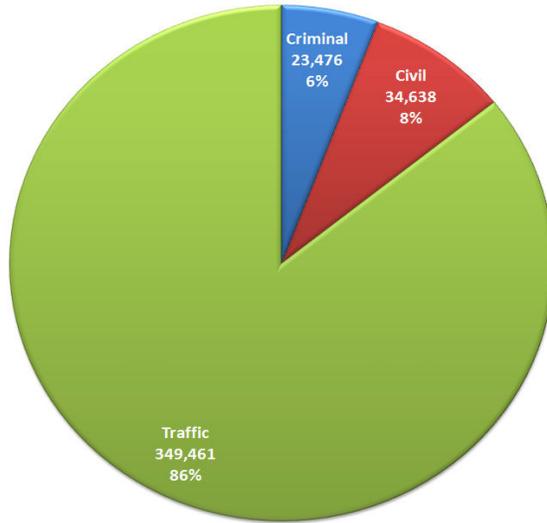
TOTAL CIRCUIT CASE FILINGS - 2006



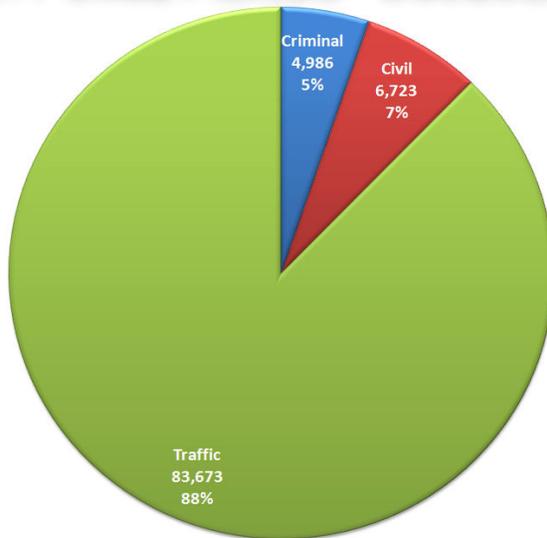
OVERVIEW OF CASE FILINGS IN THE 9TH CIRCUIT



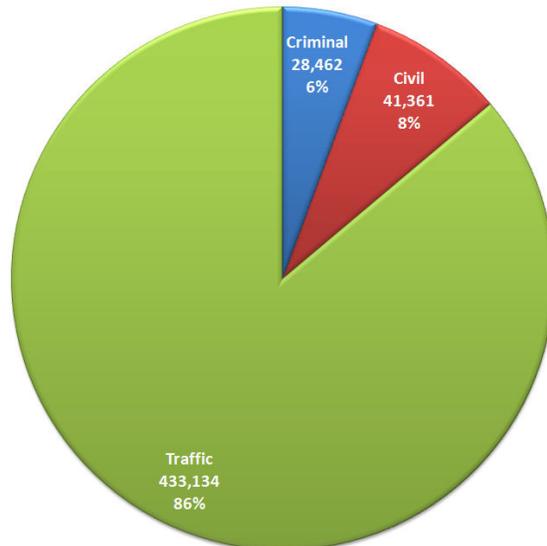
COUNTY CASE FILINGS - ORANGE COUNTY 2006



COUNTY CASE FILINGS - OSCEOLA COUNTY 2006



TOTAL COUNTY CASE FILINGS - 2006



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE TECHNOLOGY AND AUTOMATED PROCEDURES

Objective

Implement JACs uniform for all Civil, Domestic & Probate Divisions
Design and install permanent courtroom evidence presentation systems
Develop automated traffic arraignment scheduling plan - JACS
Develop audio/video network to branch courthouses
Develop Judicial Dashboard case management system for Judges - Criminal
Research remote video mediation

DEVELOP AND EFFICIENTLY USE RESOURCES

Objective

Implement departmental inventory system
Implement invoice audit process
Develop judicial training video for interpreter usage
Coordinate direct filings between Felony and Juvenile Divisions
Expand Mental Health Court - Osceola County
Develop unified circuit-wide forms for Domestic Division

IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS

Objective

Create flyer outlining ADA guidelines
Develop Spanish sub-titles for all court video productions
Establish "A Place For Children" for Osceola County

ENHANCE PUBLIC TRUST, CONFIDENCE, RELATIONSHIPS, AND PROFESSIONALISM

Objective

Produce informational videos for display in waiting areas
Provide video training for attorneys on using courtroom technology
Develop courtroom proceedings security plan
Provide audio/video equipment info & schedule on NINJA
Develop Inside the Courts program - Osceola County
Distribute Inside the Courts for statewide broadcast
Produce historical perspective video on the Ninth Judicial Circuit
Develop mock trial video for distribution to schools and Orange TV
Produce "State of the Court Address" for Orange TV and the Internet

DEVELOP AND SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION METHODS

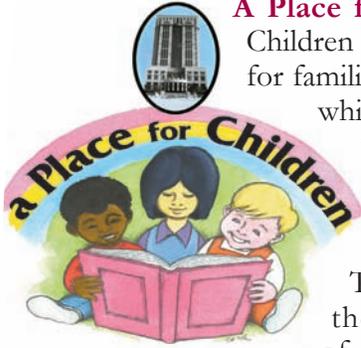
Objective

Establish Alternative Resolution Program at branch courthouses



2006 COMPLETED OBJECTIVES

- Established two misdemeanor and one felony courtrooms at the Orange County Jail
- Created dedicated courts to handle high conflict domestic violence cases
- Developed centralized court interpreting system
- Added imaging and web interface to jury management application - Osceola
- Added imaging and web interface to jury management application - Orange
- Provided court reporting coverage for all court facilities from one location
- Developed Judicial Dashboard case management system for Judges - Civil
- Created case management system for domestic violence cases
- Developed courtroom video network
- Provided jail courtroom with access to criminal history data - JIS
- Developed circuit-wide interpreter policy
- Established uniform/staggered trial periods for Circuit Criminal Division
- Developed special needs diversion program for the mentally ill



A Place for Children - - A Place for Children is an on-site childcare facility for families with official court business, which allows children the chance to relax and have fun as an alternative to spending long court sessions being exposed to adult situations. The program is operated by the Children's Home Society of Florida, a non-profit agency

focusing on child welfare issues for more than 100 years. A Place for Children, which began in 1998, is funded by Orange County, Heart of Florida United Way, Court Administration and private contributions. More than 21,000 children have been served by this licensed drop-in center since its inauguration. The program, which cares for children up to age 14, also provides a link between high-risk families and social services. All families who utilize the center are offered referrals for community services. Last year, more than one-quarter accepted those referrals. In 2002, the center began providing free childcare for people summoned for jury duty. Reservations are required for jurors' children. All others are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. The professionally staffed center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, on the 2nd floor of the Orange County Courthouse. For more information about the center, or to contribute toys, childrens' videos or make donations, please call **407-836-2108, Ext. 3**.

•“Urinalysis Screening”- Juveniles are court ordered to submit to drug and/or alcohol screening and may receive assistance in completing their sanctions through the Alternative Sanctions Coordinator or the Human Services Associates' representative. The Alternative Sanctions Coordinator also supervises and provides case management to the participants of the Juvenile Drug Court Program. For more information, call **407-343-2518**.

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 1,750 attorneys, paralegals and law students have participated in these seminars. For more information, call the Bar at **407-422-4551**.

Alternative Sanctions Program (Osceola) - - This program is funded by Osceola County through the 65 Fund under the direct supervision of the Family Court Programs Manager. Since its commencement in June of 2006, this program's mission is to provide alternative sanctions to incarceration for juvenile offenders in Osceola County such as:

- “Y.E.S.” is designed for first time petit theft offenders in which they are required to complete a Home Study Kit (available in English and Spanish) and attend a 2-hour workshop. Twenty juveniles have participated and successfully completed this program.
- “Sanction Day” is a full day workshop that includes videos, discussions, a jail tour and a “Street Smart” presentation. This workshop is a product of the collaboration between Teen Court, local law enforcement, the Osceola County Corrections Department and the Orange County Fire Department paramedics. Twelve juveniles participated and successfully completed this workshop.
- Community Service – Juveniles are court ordered to complete community service and they may receive assistance in finding a community service project location in order to comply with their sanction.



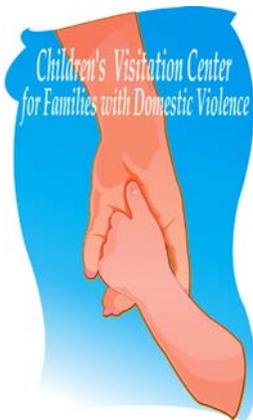
Audio/Visual Services - - The Ninth Judicial Circuit's Audio Visual (A/V) Department is recognized as a world leader in courthouse and courtroom technology. The A/V Department provides comprehensive support for the Orange and Osceola County Courthouses, the Thomas S. Kirk Juvenile Justice Center, the three branch courthouses, and the three courtrooms located at the Orange County Jail. A/V staff have designed and installed cutting edge technology that centralizes service delivery and support. From a single location or from any computer on the network, A/V staff provides for and supports video arraignments and initial appearances, video conferencing, digital court reporting, centralized interpreting, media production, evidence presentation systems and

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Internet broadcast. In addition to covering more than 70 court venues, the A/V staff also maintains and supports the Roger A. Barker Courtroom, one of the most technologically advanced courtrooms in the world. 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**.

Child Support Hearing Officers - - Child Support Hearing Officers assist the judges assigned to the domestic relations division by hearing cases which

help reduce the large caseload assigned to each judge. The hearing officers are responsible for hearing and resolving all Department of Revenue related child support cases. These cases include voluntary paternity actions, establishment of support, public assistance reimbursement, medical/health insurance obligations and the enforcement and modification of existing support orders. The hearing officers also hear and resolve establishment, enforcement and modification of out of state support requests (UIFSA actions). With a successful hearing officer program, the citizens of the State of Florida are assured that state tax dollars and assets are used effectively and efficiently to have the parents of minor children provide for the support and well-being of their children. In Orange County, call **407-836-2287**. In Osceola County, call **407-343-2460**.

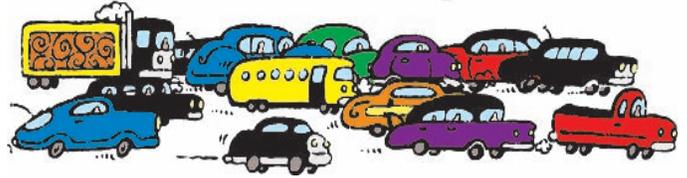


Children's Visitation Center for Families with Domestic Violence (Osceola) - -

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 while ensuring their safety. The center also provides monitored exchange and day visit services to allow parents to

safely exchange children for the purpose of visitation. Since the program began, 787 families and 1,535 children have been served. Participation in this program requires a court order. For information, call **407-343-2467**.

Civil Traffic Hearing Officers

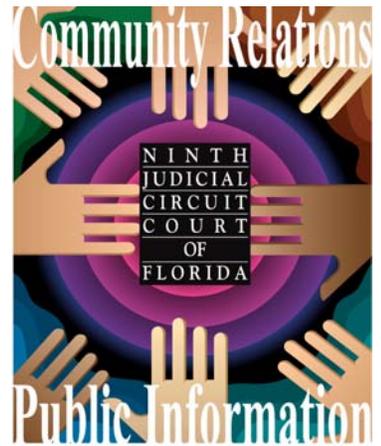


Civil Traffic Infractions Hearing Officer Program - -

The purpose of the Civil Traffic Infractions Hearing Officer Program is to divert less serious civil traffic infractions away from the more formal traffic court. The Traffic Hearing Officers are members of The Florida Bar and are subject to The Florida Bar Code of Professional Responsibility and to relevant portions of the Code of Judicial Conduct. They have the power to accept pleas from defendants, hear and rule upon motions, decide whether a defendant has committed a civil traffic infraction and adjudicate or withhold adjudication in the same manner as a county court judge. They cannot, however, conduct contempt proceedings, hear any case involving an accident with injuries or suspend a defendant's driver's license. The Civil Traffic Infractions Hearing Officer Program is an essential part of the court system. In 2006 alone, it disposed of approximately 353,000 Orange County traffic infraction cases. In Orange County, please call **407-836-2334**. In Osceola County, please call **407-343-2400**.

Community Relations/ Public Information - -

The Ninth Judicial Circuit is committed to educating the public by enhancing understanding of the Court's roles and responsibilities in the community. A comprehensive Public Information Program that 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 various court publications. In addition, the judges and court staff visit numerous schools and speak to children from kindergarten to college about the courts and opportunities in the legal profession. The Court's quarterly news magazine, *Court Illustrated*, highlights the work of the judiciary and staff and provides the community with information on innovations in court management, case processing, programs and outreach. Other publications, such as the Annual Report, court brochures and the court coloring





book assist in providing a better understanding of the Court's role in the community. The Court has moved further into the technological realm in creating jury videos, initial appearance and arraignment videos and public service announcements on court programs and services. Many of these videos are produced in different languages and can be viewed on the Court's web site or on Orange TV, Government Access.

Complex Business Litigation Court

- - Established in 2003, the Complex Business Litigation Court is the first court in Florida devoted entirely to complex business litigation cases. It serves as a subdivision of the Circuit Civil Division in Orange County and was created to hear more complicated cases that require a higher degree of case management. By limiting its focus to complex business litigation, the court provides a streamlined process for efficiently and effectively resolving complicated corporate and commercial disputes in a fairly short amount of time and thereby greatly reducing the costs involved in lengthy litigation. The court also places great emphasis on alternative dispute resolution and pre-trial settlement, which significantly reduces the cost of court operations. Cases involving contracts, Article 9 and antitrust suits, intellectual property, franchise disputes and/or unfair competition disputes are among the cases suitable for adjudication in this subdivision, provided that the amount in controversy is greater than \$75,000.00. For more information in Orange County, please call **407-836-1464**.



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. In 2006, interpreters in the circuit handled nearly 25,000 cases in 29 languages from Albanian to Vietnamese. Spanish was the most frequently used language, followed by Creole, American Sign Language, Portuguese, Vietnamese and Russian. To learn more, call **407-836-2399** in Orange County or **407-343-2400** in Osceola County.

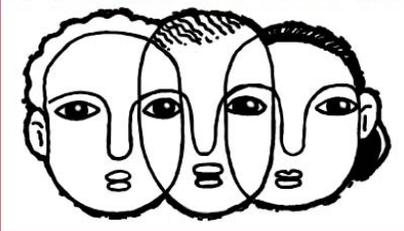
Court Reporting Services

- - The Office of Court Reporting Services is responsible for the official record of all criminal court



proceedings in the Ninth Circuit plus other proceedings per statute and local administrative order. There are four separate departments of Court Reporting Services. They are: (1) Official Court Reporting, (2) Digital Court Reporting, (3) Digital Court Reporting, Juvenile Division, and (4) Osceola Court Reporting. One manager of Court Reporting Services is responsible for all four departments. There is one senior user support analyst who is responsible for maintenance and technology of Court Reporting Services. All transcripts/duplicate media requests are produced in-house. All four departments combined produced approximately 108,000 pages of appeal and non-appeal transcripts and approximately 1000 CD copies of proceedings in 2006. In addition to the Managing Court Reporter and Senior User Support Analyst, Court Reporting Services has 43 employees, including 34 court reporters in Orange County and 9 court reporters in Osceola County.

INTERPRETERS



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 and skill-building workshops for interpreters of all languages. Court Interpreters provide neutral interpreting and translating services for the courts. Interpreters are required in criminal cases for all defendants

The Official Court Reporting Office (Orange County)

- - has one managing court reporter who is Computer Assisted Transcript (CAT) certified, three real-time certified reporters, seven other CAT certified court reporters and two voice-writer (steno mask) court reporters. The staff handles all 12 Orange County circuit criminal courts when in trial plus visiting judges in trial. This department annually produces approximately 55,000 pages of transcript. For more information, call **407-836-2280**.

The Digital Court Reporting Office, Orlando Division (Orange County)

- - This office has 1 managing digital court reporter, 1 assistant managing digital

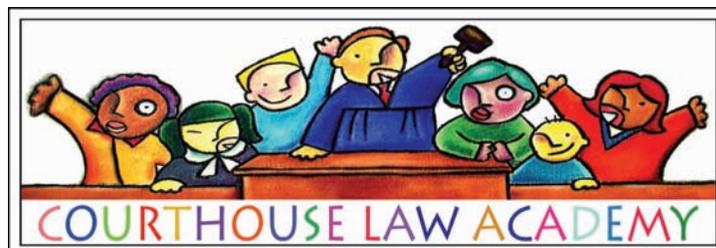
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

court reporter and 15 digital court reporters. The department handles all 12 circuit criminal courts when 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 the reporter's individual workstation. All other courts are covered at the location of the proceeding. This department annually produces approximately 26,000 pages of transcript and 500 CD copies of proceedings. For more information, call **407-836-2270**.

The Digital Court Reporting Office, Juvenile Division (Orange County) - - This office has one assistant managing digital court reporter and three digital court reporters. This department handles six juvenile courts, both dependency and delinquency, from the reporter's individual workstation. This department annually produces approximately 8,000 pages of transcript and 100 CD copies of proceedings. For more information, call **407-836-7503**.

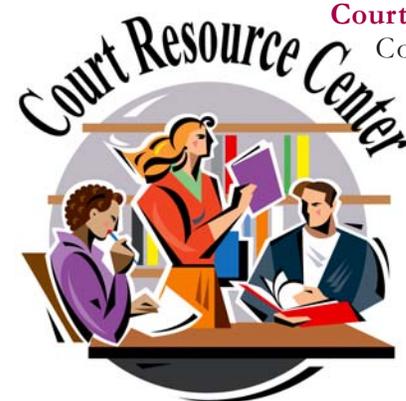
Osceola Court Reporting Services - - This office has one managing court reporter who is CAT certified, two other CAT certified stenograph court reporters, and six digital court reporters. The department handles all court reporting services for the Osceola County Courthouse, including circuit criminal courts, misdemeanor and traffic courts, domestic violence court, juvenile court, drug court, initial appearances and child support. All proceedings are covered digitally at a central monitoring station. The department annually produces approximately 19,000 pages of transcript and 400 CD copies of proceedings. For more information, call **407-343-2482**.

In 2006, the Court Resource Center assisted approximately 21,000 people. The Court's web site has some of the same services online, plus domestic relations court forms, through its virtual "Court Resource Center." For more information on the Court Resource Center, call **407-836-0517**. Please visit the Virtual Court Resource Center at ninja9.org/courtadmin/courtresourcecenter.htm.



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 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 Court 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. 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.

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 is one of the most advanced and integrated courtrooms in the world. The project began in March 1997, when staff from the Ninth Circuit traveled to Courtroom 21, in Williamsburg, VA, to tour the preeminent high-tech courtroom. Two years later, after much planning, discussion and hard work, the Ninth Judicial Circuit formally opened one of the world's most technologically advanced and integrated courtrooms. The courtroom contains the following key elements: fiber-optic cabling; evidence presentation system; voice-activated video conferencing;



Internet and remote broadcast; digital and real-time court reporting; video annotation; videoconferencing; touch screen integration; wireless technology; and flat and plasma screen displays. With annual upgrades, the courtroom continues to mature and stay on the technological edge. Courtroom 23 is open for tours and orientation. If interested, please call **407-836-2380**.

Dependency Case Coordination Program - - This position, under Court Administration, provides administrative, operational and clerical assistance to the juvenile dependency judges. The Department of Children and Families files a petition to intervene or remove a child from parental custody in instances where there are allegations that a child has been abused, abandoned or neglected. 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.

Dispute Resolution Services

- - Mediation is a way to help two parties resolve a dispute through discussions. The mediator, a neutral person, meets with both sides to encourage and facilitate resolution. Mediation programs provide litigants 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 professional volunteer and contract mediators. In an effort to resolve cases before trial, judges may refer a variety of cases to mediation including county civil, juvenile dependency, domestic relations and some restitution. 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 2006, more than 22,000 small claims and county civil cases were referred to mediation in Orange and Osceola counties. More than 78% of the 7,500 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 2006, 4,000 family cases were referred to mediation in Orange and Osceola counties. More than 70% of those cases mediated reached full or partial agreement.

Juvenile Dependency Mediation: Involves cases with accusations of child abuse, neglect or abandonment. The parent, attorney or guardian ad litem who is 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 and Osceola counties in 2006, 242 cases were referred to mediation.

Restitution Mediation: Involves criminal and traffic cases with restitution owed to a victim. The parties are interviewed separately and if possible mediate in the same room. The mediator discusses and tries to resolve the amount and payment of restitution owed to the victim.

Arbitration: A process of dispute resolution in which a neutral third party renders a decision after a hearing at which both parties have an opportunity to be heard. Arbitration may be court ordered (non-binding) or voluntary (binding or non-binding depending on the agreement). Small Claims Arbitration: A voluntary program for unrepresented 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. Circuit Civil Arbitration: The Ninth Circuit maintains a list of attorneys who are trained and who are willing to serve as arbitrators in court ordered non-binding arbitration in the Ninth Circuit.

Parenting Coordination: This program is administered by Dispute Resolution Services. The goal of the Parenting Coordination Program is to successfully reduce stress of children in separated/divorcing families by strengthening co-parenting. Parenting Coordinators are certified family mediators who may have a background in law and/or mental health. The Parenting Coordinator meets with **27** both parents and children to clarify the parenting

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

issues involved. Their responsibilities include fostering communication and problem-solving skills between parents, teaching appropriate parental interaction in front of the children, refining child contact schedules, mediating parenting disputes, and increasing parenting knowledge (child development, child divorce issues). In 2006, Parenting Coordination conducted more than 2,100 sessions with high conflict parents. For more information, call **407-836-2116**.

Domestic Violence Court -- The new Domestic Violence Court will dramatically change the way family violence and other family related cases are heard and processed. In 2006, there were 6,293 domestic violence injunctions filed with the Court. The Orange County Sheriff's Office made 2,726 domestic violence arrests while the Orlando Police Department made 1,163 domestic violence arrests. Streamlining the way in which these cases are processed will ensure more accountability within the overall system, address a variety of safety issues, enhance enforcement efforts and provide judges with the comprehensive information they need to make consistent and informed decisions. Three courtrooms on the 16th floor of the Orange County Courthouse are dedicated to family cases where domestic violence has been reported. Security officials direct petitioners and respondents to separate and secure reception areas. All cases are heard individually. In addition, cases will be scheduled in blocks of time throughout the day so parties will not have to spend hours at the courthouse. For more information in Orange County, 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:

The Drug Court Program started in 2000. 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 2005-2006 in Orange County, an additional 123 defendants were ordered into the program, bringing **28** the monthly average caseload to 123. During this period, a total of 157 defendants were discharged, of which 132

were successful. This provided for a successful completion rate of 84%. In fiscal year 2005-2006 in Osceola County, an additional 168 clients were accepted into the Adult Drug Court. During this period 141 clients were discharged from the program with 90 successfully graduating. This provided a successful completion rate of 64%. 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 2005-2006, 42 juveniles were admitted, and 38 were discharged of which, 11 were successful graduates for a 29% 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 over 100 youth since its inception. In Osceola County, for fiscal year 2005-2006, 21 juveniles were admitted, and 18 were discharged of which 12 were successful graduates for a 67% successful completion rate. For Delinquency Drug Court in Orange County, call **407-836-9500**. In Osceola County, call **407-343-2518**.

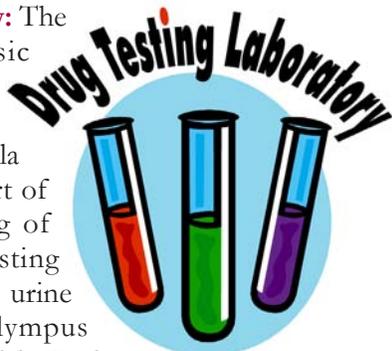
Juvenile Reentry Drug Court: The reentry drug court program identifies youths who will be (or have been) committed to a Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) commitment facility and assists their placement in this program as a condition of release. The juveniles are closely monitored by treatment and 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 13 new admissions in fiscal year 2005-2006. There were 17 discharges of which 5 were graduates for a successful completion rate of 29%. 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 **407-836-9500**.

Family/Dependency Drug Court: The Dependency Drug Court program was launched in Orange and Osceola counties with the 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. The drug court program coordinator and treatment staff monitor the participant's progress in treatment. Participants submit to random urinalyses, at times, as often as 5 times a week. The participant attends biweekly hearings before the designated judge to assess their progress. The Orange County Family Dependency Drug Court had 17 new admissions in the fiscal year 2005-2006. There were 18 discharges of which 4 were graduates for a successful completion rate of 22%. In addition, more than 22 children were impacted upon by the participation of their parents in the Dependency Drug Court Program in 2005-2006. In Orange County, call **407-836-9500**.

Drug Testing Laboratory: The Osceola County Forensic Drug Testing Laboratory (OCFDTL) 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 urine analysis in house on Olympus diagnostic equipment with Dade Behring's Syva chemistry. The lab currently tests Osceola County Probation, Pre-Trial Release and multiple outside agencies. The lab observes collections as well as monitors dilution and adulteration levels. A medical review officer is on call for positive test confirmation. The screening process reduces the fiscal cost to clients and the county agencies that mandate drug testing both as a part of their business and as a responsibility to public safety. In 2006, the OCFDTL provided testing for approximately 1,000 clients. Approximately 7,000 specimens were collected resulting in 27,000 tests. The OCFDTL technicians are certified by Olympus Diagnostics, Dade Behring University and DATIA (Drug Alcohol Testing Industry Association). For more information in Osceola County, call **407-962-1432**.



to air conditioning, elevators and custodial needs. Court Administration implemented an emergency notification call-in system in 2004. The goal of this system was to provide current information to all judges, JAs and employees during emergencies. 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 **407-836-2244**. 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 2006, the Family Court Case Management Office in Orange County managed 3,846 pro se divorce and name change cases. This case management included reviewing court files and overseeing cases to a final hearing, referring 375 cases to Mediation, scheduling 3,633 final hearings and preparing and processing Income Deduction Orders. In Osceola County, the unit reviewed a total of 5,348 open files, in which 1,492 were filed in 2006. In addition, the unit monitored compliance of court orders and referred 774 cases to mediation. It also assisted 5,040 litigants on a walk-in basis and answered 4,679 phone calls to inform them about the process of their open case. To learn more about the unit in Osceola County, call **407-343-2474**. To learn more in Orange County, call **407-836-6054**.



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 all support services such as copiers, telecommunications and video equipment



Family Court Programs Division - - In Osceola County, this division oversees various programs/units, such as: Court Case Management Unit, Unified Family Court Unit, Teen Court Program, Juvenile Drug Court Program, Alternative Sanctions Program, Guardianship, Visitation Center, Injunction Processing Unit, Dispute Resolution Services and Guardianship Case Management. These programs, with the exception of Dispute Resolution Services, are housed on the third floor of the courthouse, and are serviced by a common reception area which is handled by a receptionist who provided assistance to 16,537 litigants on a walk-in basis in 2006.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Family Ties - - The concept for the Family Ties Program grew out of a concern for the murders of children by parents embroiled in custody disputes. Family Ties is a court-operated, visitation/monitored exchange program that provides parent-child contact in a friendly environment with assurance for

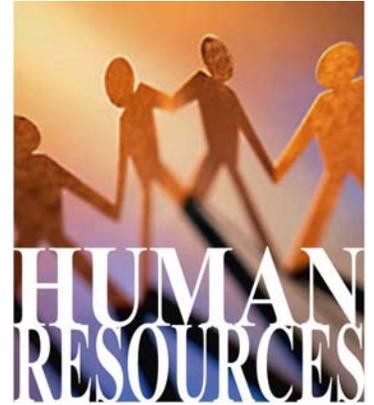


the child's safety. Family Ties opened in September 1997. Since its inception, the program has 9,010 completed visits and 1,700 completed exchanges. More than 1,200 families have been through the program and 1,855 children have received services. Family Ties allows children to spend time with their non-custodial parent in a pleasant, safe atmosphere. The program 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**.

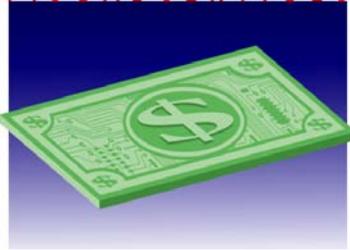
Guardianship - - In Osceola County, guardianship cases are reviewed by the case manager/court monitor who provides a written report to the Court after extensive research. The case manager reviewed and prepared 486 case manager status reports in 2006. In addition, the case manager attended 339 hearings regarding guardianship, probate and incapacity. To learn more about the unit in Osceola County, call **407-343-2489**.

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 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**.



FISCAL SERVICES



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 **407-836-2234**. In Osceola County, call **407-343-2440**.

Guardianship Monitor Program - - The Guardianship Monitor Program was established in Orange County to ensure that all court-appointed guardians comply with Florida guardianship law by meeting filing deadlines and providing the appropriate level of personal and/or financial care to their wards. The Court currently employs one full-time Court Monitor for this purpose. The Court Monitor investigates allegations of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of elderly wards or the misappropriation of wards' assets. If a member of the community suspects that a disabled or incapacitated person may be or has been mistreated or fear that that person's assets may be or have been misappropriated, he or she may make a report by calling the Guardianship Action-Line at **407-836-0503**. The individual need not provide his or her name nor identify him or herself in any way; all that is needed is enough information to locate the person in need of protection. For information in Orange County, please call **407-836-6058**.

Injunction Processing Unit (Osceola) - - 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 Osceola Clerk of the Court and managed by Court Administration. It is a walk-in service; no appointment, referrals or legal representation is required. Regular business hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, an on-call staff member is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, via pager. In 2006, the Injunction Processing Unit was able to serve 5,874 litigants seeking information about protection orders and/or returning for additional services. The Unit assisted 1,849 litigants file petitions for orders for protection and 110 of those litigants were assisted after business hours, weekends and/or holidays. In addition, the Unit provided over 8,400 referrals and information regarding additional community resources. To learn more, call **407-343-2464**.

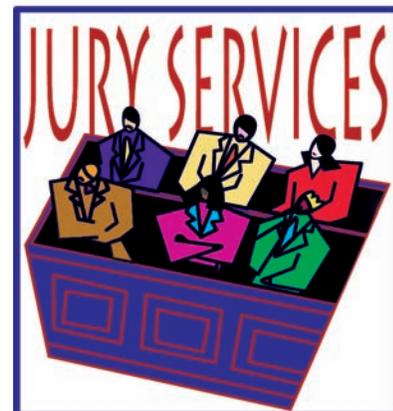


Inside the Courts - - Citizens of Orange and Osceola counties interested in learning more about the legal system can participate in Inside the Courts, a 4-part educational series taught by a team of judges. Inside the Courts is a proactive outreach program that is uniquely designed to allow citizens to learn about the court and interact with the judges in an informal setting. Topics presented include criminal and civil courts, probate and mental health, domestic, juvenile, traffic, and collections court, as well as mediation and court interpreting. Presentations are designed to be dynamic, with audience participation, along with plenty of opportunity for questions and answers. Individuals who complete the program receive certificates of achievement. Nearly 250 attendees participated in the 2006 program and thousands have participated since the series first began in 1998. Inside the Courts is a free program that helps instill trust and confidence in our judicial system. Sessions are offered annually and previous programs air regularly on Orange TV. For more information or to register for the next program, call **407-836-0517**.



of the daily duties and responsibilities of the trial court judge in relation to the volume, complexity and variety of cases on the docket. It encourages elected officials to observe the judicial process first hand and discuss matters of mutual concern. The program is tailored to meet the interests of participating officials. For more information, call **407-836-0517**.

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 the Court's Internet web site. 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 per day for the first three days if they are not paid by their employers, are unemployed or self-employed. Payment increases to \$30 per day for the fourth and any subsequent days. Prospective jurors report to the jury assembly room before they are assigned to a case. In Orange County, jurors can take advantage of free bus passage on any existing Lynx Bus route for transportation to and from jury service. 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 both the Orange and Osceola County Courthouses. The ninja9.org web site allows prospective jurors to check after 5 p.m. for the next day's reporting instructions.

Internships - - The Ninth Judicial Circuit in Osceola County provides internships to college students attending our local community colleges and universities. We offer opportunities for students to get a true hands-on experience in their area of interest, including our Forensic Drug Testing Laboratory, Injunction Unit, Children's Visitation Center and Family Court. The program coordinators involved in our internship program take a genuine interest in providing our interns with a meaningful learning experience and are committed to the success of each student. For information, call **407-343-2418**.

Judicial Ride-A-Long Program

- - The Ninth Judicial Circuit offers elected officials the opportunity to participate in the circuit's Judicial Ride-Along Program. The program's goal is to provide public officials with insight into the indispensable role the courts play in the justice system. The program is designed to give them a personal understanding



In Orange County, pagers are available to alert prospective jurors who need to leave the courthouse for a few minutes. 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. There are hook-ups for laptops and cable TV along with wireless capability. The Cyber Café allows visitors the chance to browse the Internet or play computer games on any one of twenty-two computers. Books and magazines are donated for jurors to read/take home as they choose. In Orange County, **31**

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

free childcare is offered for jurors' children through A Place for Children. Reservations are required. The past several years, Court Administration has celebrated Law Week with jurors each May through the Orange County and American Bar Associations.

In Osceola County, the jury assembly room is also equipped with amenities including vending machines, courtesy phones, and complimentary coffee and tea service. A twelve computer Cyber Café allows jurors to browse the Internet or play computer games. The Cyber Café also contains a fax machine and laptop connections for juror use. Reading materials, televisions, board games, and "quiet rooms" make the jurors' experiences more enjoyable. A secure smoking area is also provided. For additional information about Jury Services in Orange County, call **407-836-2206**. In Osceola County, call **407-343-2423**.

Law Student Internships - - Each year, the Court matches a limited number of law school students with judges for a judicial internship for one semester or summer. Those selected work closely with the judges, observe court proceedings and perform legal research and writing for their assigned judge or group of judges. The internships are volunteer positions (unpaid). Students in their second or third year of law school are preferred, and the interns are required to commit to a minimum of ten hours per week. Interns are subject to a criminal background check. If you are interested in a law student internship, please email a cover letter which includes your approximate start and end dates and approximate hours per week available to work to ctadds1@ocnjcc.org. Also, attach a résumé, short writing sample, and a transcript of your law school grades. For further information, contact **407-836-0411**.

Magistrates - - The Magistrate Program was created to assist the judges by hearing matters in cases involving domestic relations, civil issues, juvenile dependency and mental health. The



Circuit has six magistrates. One magistrate is assigned to Osceola County, one is assigned to the Juvenile Division on Michigan Avenue and the other four serve in Orange County. The magistrates are attorneys who are appointed by the Chief Judge. Magistrates hear varied types of cases and prepare detailed reports and recommendations to the referring judges. The magistrates

32 hear several thousand cases each year. For information, call **407-836-1621**.

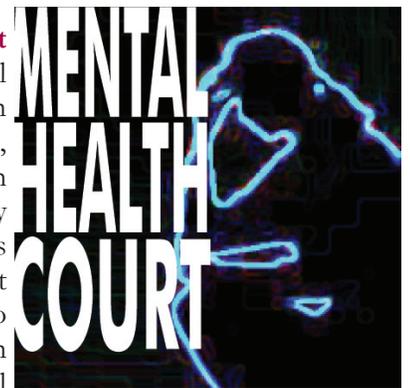
Media Relations - -

It is the Ninth Judicial Circuit's goal to meet the informational needs of the media and public, ensure the rights of litigants to fair court proceedings and guarantee the operational integrity of the courts. Initial appearances and arraignments are broadcast daily on the Court's web site. Whenever possible, judicial orders, jury instructions and relevant court documents are made available to the media in a timely manner on the web site or by hard copy. The circuit hosts media workshops to assist journalists in understanding the programs and services offered by the court. These workshops provide media representatives the opportunity to talk to the judiciary about topics of concern. 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 (Osceola) - -

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 a written apology, essay, community service, attending Operation Right Track (a one-day boot camp style program), taking a tour of the 33rd Street Jail and paying restitution to the victim. A Sanctions Coordinator - a law enforcement officer from the community - 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 attorney for prosecution in court. This program has been successful through partnerships with the police departments of Apopka, Ocoee, Winter Garden, Eatonville and Maitland. Apopka (including the communities of Plymouth and Zellwood) was the first Neighborhood Restorative Justice program in Orange County. In 2006, 151 juveniles completed the NRJ Program with the help of the committed volunteers and police officers. For information, call **407-836-9553**.

- Administrative Orders – searchable
- Appellate Opinions – searchable
- Audio/Visual request form
- Available hearing times
- Court dockets
- Court forms
- Court reporting media request form
- Court Resource Center
- Court rulings
- Directions
- Job listings
- Judicial directory
- Judicial profiles
- Juror information
- Legal research
- Live broadcasts
- Press releases
- Publications - print
- Publications - talking
- Statistics
- Tour request form
- Video library

In 2006, NINJA entertained and educated more than 11.5 million hits, with an average of more than 31,000 inquiries per day. The Court's web site is 100% developed and maintained by the staff of the Ninth Judicial Circuit. 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 2007 edition includes procedures for the new Domestic Violence Court as well as for the 9 new judges that we have due to retirements and new judicial positions that were allotted to the Ninth Circuit to help with caseloads. Order forms for the manuals are available on the Court's web site on the main page and under court forms. For more information, call **407-836-2276**.



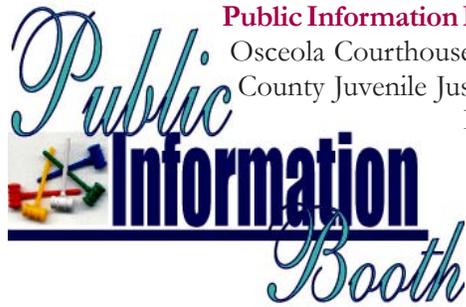
NINJA9 - - The Ninth Judicial Circuit's web site (NINJA) is an award winning, educational, and interactive site providing a wealth of information on the judiciary and the courts. Site content includes, but not limited to, the following information:

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Pay Up -- Pay Up, a program in Orange County, 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, 10-19 years of age. The Pay Up program helps them obtain jobs through Employability Skills Training classes. Pay Up is operated by the Orange County Juvenile Division of the Ninth Circuit. For more information, call **407-836-8972**.



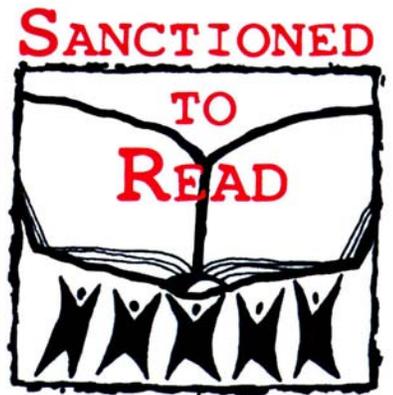
Public Information Booth -- The Orange and Osceola Courthouses, as well as the Orange County Juvenile Justice Center, have Public Information booths. In Orange County, the booth is located in the courthouse rotunda and has been in operation since December 1998.

At the Thomas S. Kirk Juvenile Justice Center and at the Osceola County Courthouse, the Public Information Booth is located in the main lobby. Volunteers are recruited and managed by Court Administration to staff the booths, providing assistance and directions to litigants, attorneys and general public at these facilities. Volunteers provide a valuable service to the court, the county and to the public. Since the program began, information booth volunteers in Orange County have logged more than 26,960 hours. In 2006, volunteers in Orange county logged more than 2,929 hours which represented a savings of more than \$41,006.00. In Osceola County, information booth volunteers logged 628 hours which represented a savings of more than \$10,000 for 2006.

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 or court referred into the program. 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.

34 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 (receptive) vocabulary, phonics, written vocabulary, written comprehension, oral reading, and language skills. The program, by design, not only improves reading skills required for language arts classes, but also helps students in other academic



Ninth Judicial Circuit Court
Orange County Teen Court

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, 104 students have completed the entire reading program increasing their grade levels in written functional vocabulary and comprehension by 2.3 grades with an age level increase in oral/receptive vocabulary of .75. There was also a grade level increase of 1.4 in written language skills, such as grammar. 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. 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 topics including alternative dispute resolution, landlord/tenant issues, small claims, court technology, family law, juvenile justice system, jury service, civil justice system and criminal courts to name. To request a speaker, call **407-836-0471**.



Staff Attorneys

Staff Attorney Department

-- Staff attorneys provide integral support to the judiciary by researching complex legal questions on pre-trial, trial and post-trial issues

which arise in all divisions of the court. They also assist the judges with a variety of other matters, such as appeals, writs, postconviction motions, and capital

cases. They prepare written memoranda in some cases and in others, report directly to the judges, either in person or via e-mail. They regularly draft proposed orders and appellate opinions for the judges' review and approval. The staff attorney program greatly increases the efficiency of court operations by providing the judges more time to devote to hearings and trials and by ensuring that difficult questions of law are thoroughly researched. In 2006, the staff attorneys researched and prepared memoranda/ proposed orders in 350 appellate cases, over 850 postconviction matters, and countless other cases in all areas of the law.

- digital court reporting
- fiber installation
- training

To reach Technical Services please call **407-836-6010** for Orange County and/or **407-343-2530** for Osceola County.



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 the parts of prosecutors, defense attorneys, deputies, the clerk and jurors, 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 non-violent misdemeanor charges. The jury determines an appropriate sentence, which may include community service, one day work camp, jail tour, drug testing, 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 1,362 criminal cases in 2006 and has 265 teen volunteers. The Osceola Program handled 614 criminal cases in 2006 and its adult/teen volunteers donated a total of 5,951 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**.

Technology Services

-- The Department of Technology Services provides comprehensive computer support for the Court's 65 judges, 65 judicial assistants and 223 employees housed in seven court facilities that are located throughout the Ninth Judicial Circuit. Services include the following:



- computer maintenance and support
- network analysis and support
- Internet maintenance and support
- web page development, maintenance and support
- application development
- database administration
- systems administration
- audio/visual design, maintenance and support
- courtroom technology
- evidence presentation systems
- video conference

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

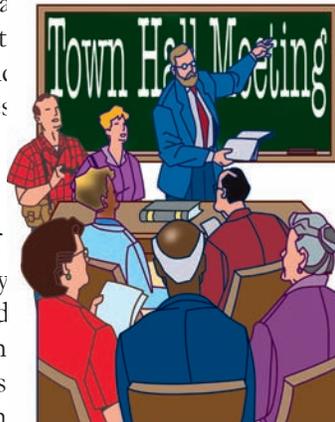


Tours -- Court Administration provides organized tours of the Orange and Osceola County Courthouses to schools, community organizations and the general public.

A written tour guide provides a floor-by-floor directory. The Court also offers virtual tours of the Orange County Courthouse, via its web site (NINJA). Tour

stops generally 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 complex from a remote location without ever leaving his or her desk. To schedule a tour, please visit the Court's web site and complete an online request form. For additional information regarding tours of the Orange County Courthouses, call **407-836-2380**. For additional information regarding tours of the Osceola County Courthouse, please call **407-343-2413**.

Town Hall Meetings -- Town Hall meetings provide an opportunity for judges and citizens to meet and openly discuss concerns and issues regarding our judicial system. The meetings are generally held at a church or community center and typically target a specific section of the community. Citizens not only get a chance to meet the judges and learn about how our judicial system operates, but they also get to express their views of the judiciary, which helps the judges understand their needs and perceptions of the court. The agenda for the meetings includes panel discussions, questions and answer sessions, a meet and greet opportunity and, at our last town hall, a "get to know your legal community fair," with booths from local community assistance and legal organizations. For information on upcoming Town Hall Meetings, call **407-836-0517**.



Truancy Court

In July of 2004, the Florida Legislature provided funding for a statewide magistrate system. Following implementation of a Magistrate Division in the Ninth Circuit, a general magistrate was assigned to assist the circuit judges sitting in the Juvenile Division of the court, and currently, a general magistrate spends one full day each week hearing truancy cases. The program provides participants and their families information and directions for services, as well as timely intervention and case management. For the year 2006, the magistrate conducted 917 truancy hearings. Sanctions can be imposed for noncompliance and under certain circumstances cases can be referred to a juvenile judge. For information, call **407-836-7511**.



Unified Family Court

Unified Family Court (Osceola) -- The Unified Family Court (UFC) utilizes a fully integrated comprehensive approach in handling all cases involving children, families and victims of domestic violence while simultaneously resolving family disputes in a fair, timely, efficient and cost-effective manner. Since January 2006, the UFC has two judges assigned to handle all family and juvenile cases in a mirror image procedure and on an alternating week basis. The goal is to have all companion cases linked together and assigned to one judge in order for the presiding judge to have a complete overview of all cases pertaining to an entire family. The UFC also has case managers to monitor court orders and the parties' compliance. Additionally, case managers research approximately 3,727 cases per year and reassign/notify the presiding judge of any and all open cases involving the parties. The case managers also provide litigants with information of community resources available to them. For more 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 as well as various departments in Orange and Osceola counties. Volunteers may also assist with numerous court programs, such as Teen Court, the Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program, and mediation programs. To volunteer in Orange County call **407-836-2261** and in Osceola County call **407-343-2418**.



N I N T H
J U D I C I A L
C I R C U I T
C O U R T
O F
F L O R I D A

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



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Kathy Payne

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