



The Ninth Judicial Circuit Court / **2007** Year in Review & Reference Guide
The Counties of Orange & Osceola



Dear Citizens of Orange and Osceola counties:

"The farther back you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see."

Winston Churchill

Dear Citizens of Orange and Osceola Counties

On behalf of the Judges of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, I am pleased to submit to you the Court's 2007 Year in Review and 2008 Reference Guide. This important document is produced annually to assist you in navigating our court system and becoming familiar with the programs and services the Court offers. We have included a photograph directory of our judges and a quick reference phone listing. We hope you will use this document as a reference guide year round.

2007 brought many challenges to this circuit. Those challenges were primarily a result of budget cuts, understaffing and increased caseloads. As good stewards of taxpayer dollars, we want to do our part to ease budgetary strains at both the local and state level. Part of our job, as a court, is to overcome financial limitations.

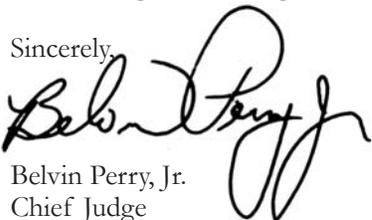
In the past we have looked to creative processes and innovative technology to bridge the gap between operating dollars and quality service. We will continue these efforts in 2008 to help navigate these rough fiscal waters and meet whatever budgetary challenges we face. At the same time, we will remain vigilant in our quest for fair and proper funding to ensure a quality court system over the long term.

What we will not do, is allow budget cuts to interfere with our overall goal as a court. While we may operate in a less than perfect fiscal environment we still target perfection and refuse to lower our standards in the administration of justice. We do this, not for ourselves, but for the people we serve and the community we live in.

I acknowledge and thank the Judges and staff who have continued their commitment to provide quality service to the citizens of Orange and Osceola Counties. The Court's accomplishments over the past year reflect our commitment to the community. We will continue to be accessible and responsive to the people we serve and will continue to meet the challenges we face with a team of dedicated, hard-working individuals who care. If the past is a reflection of the future, than we can be optimistic about our ability to meet any challenge placed before us.

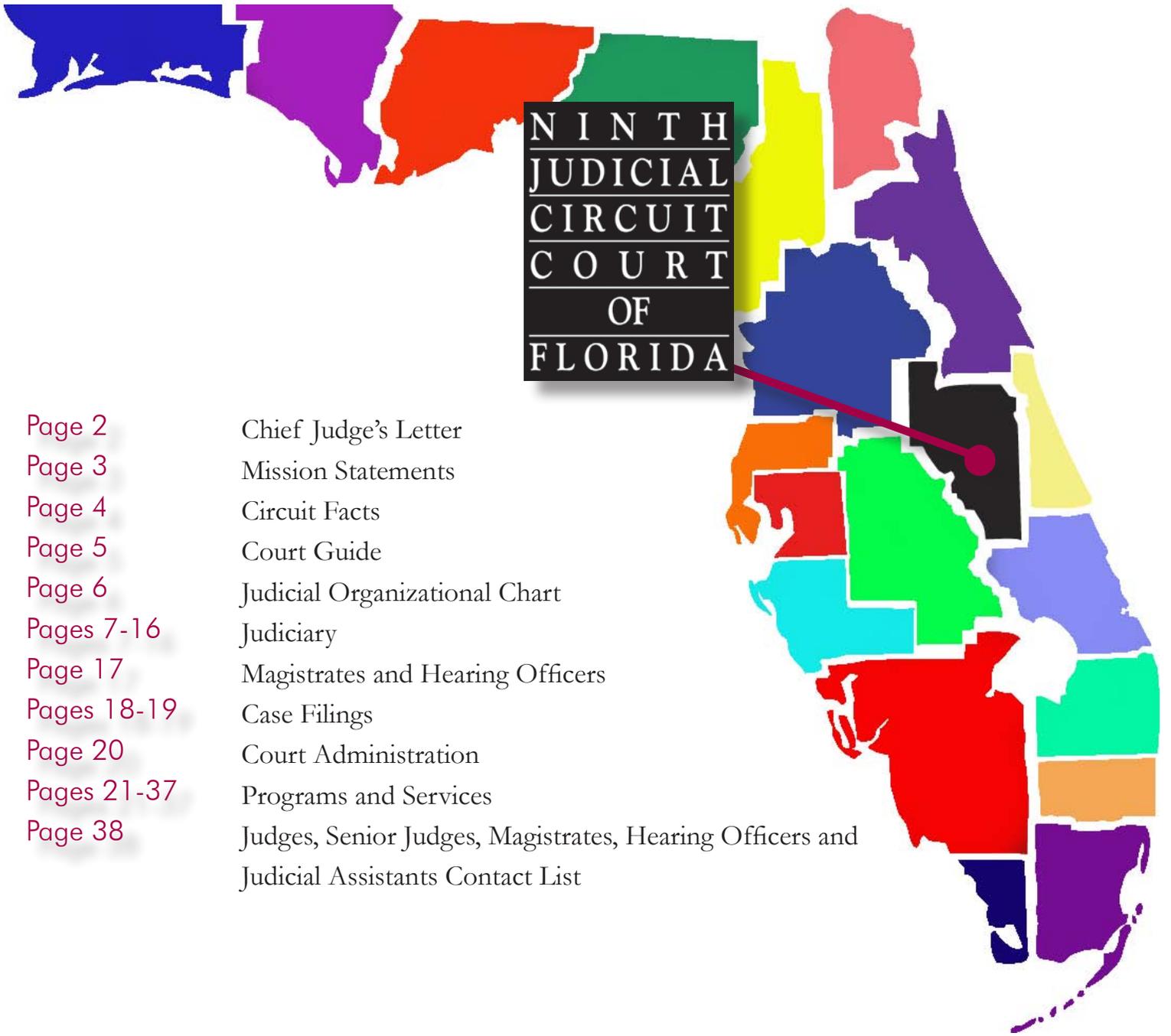
It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Chief Judge. I look forward to great challenges and achievements in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Belvin Perry, Jr.
Chief Judge





Page 2	Chief Judge’s Letter
Page 3	Mission Statements
Page 4	Circuit Facts
Page 5	Court Guide
Page 6	Judicial Organizational Chart
Pages 7-16	Judiciary
Page 17	Magistrates and Hearing Officers
Pages 18-19	Case Filings
Page 20	Court Administration
Pages 21-37	Programs and Services
Page 38	Judges, Senior Judges, Magistrates, Hearing Officers and Judicial Assistants Contact List

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.



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.

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.

In addition to its year round population, the area is a top tourist destination in the world. In 2007, Central Florida hosted nearly 50 million visitors who contributed roughly 30 million dollars to the local economy. The area boasts 99 attractions, 176 golf courses, 112,000 hotel rooms and 5,300 restaurants.

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.





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.

Booking and Release Center

Three courtrooms are housed at the Orange County Jail Booking and Release Center to expedite processing of initial appearance, arraignment and violation of probation hearings. The 300,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility opened in 2006 and includes offices of the Public Defender, State Attorney, Clerk of Court as well as judicial chambers.

Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida at Branch Courthouses

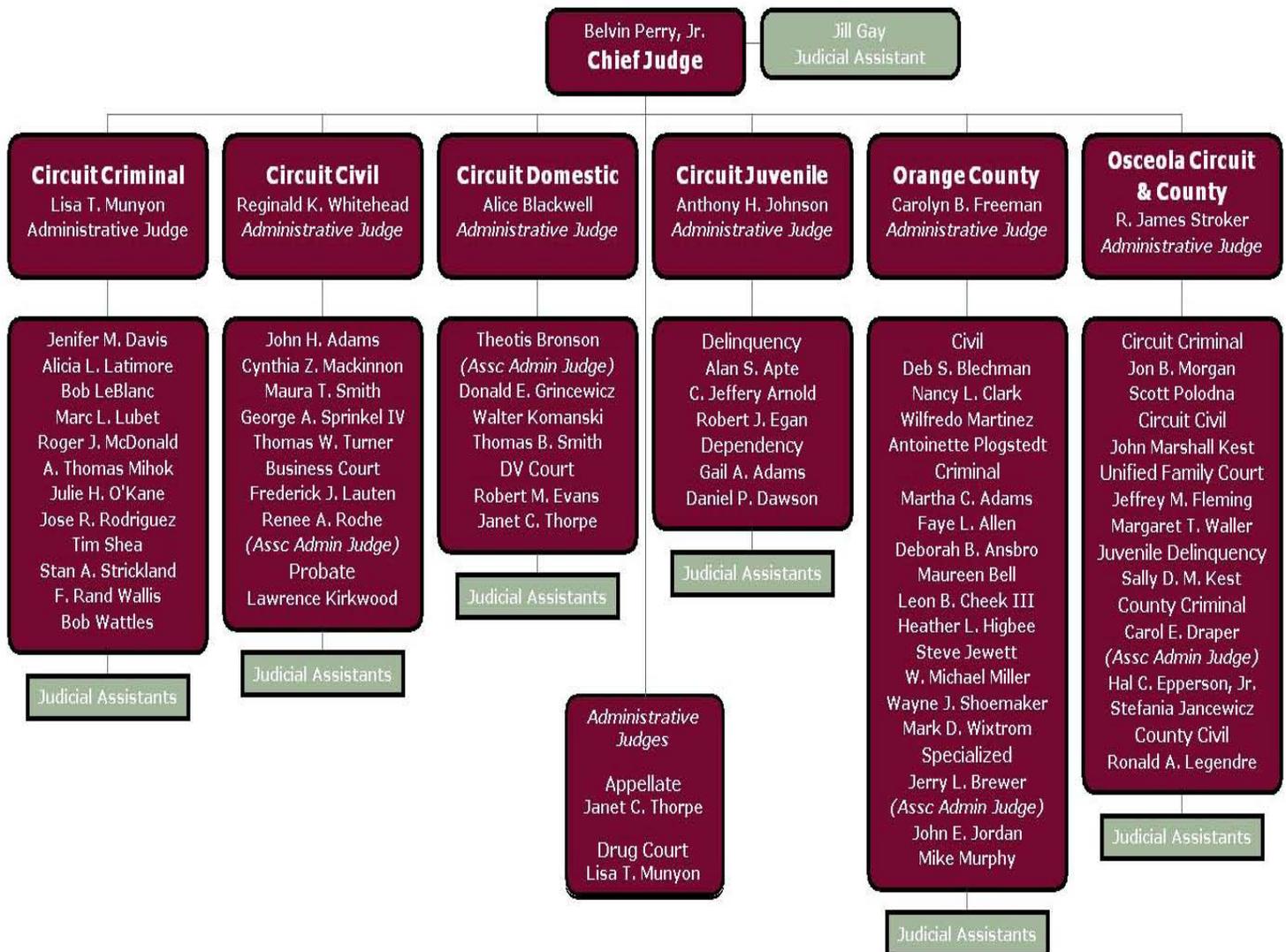
Orange County Court judges travel to the three satellite courtrooms in Ocoee, Apopka and Winter Park to hear traffic and misdemeanor arraignments. In addition, hearing officers travel to the satellite courts to hear traffic infraction cases. The Ocoee and Apopka Branch Services buildings were built at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





Administrative Judges Serving in 2007

Honorable Reginald K. Whitehead – Circuit Civil Division
 Honorable Renee A. Roche – Associate Civil Division
 Honorable Lisa T. Munyon – Criminal Division
 Honorable Jay P. Cohen – Associate Criminal Division
 Honorable Anthony H. Johnson – Juvenile Division
 Honorable Alice Blackwell – 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

Administrative Judges Serving in 2008

Honorable Reginald K. Whitehead – Circuit Civil Division
 Honorable Renee A. Roche – Associate Civil Division
 Honorable Lisa T. Munyon – Criminal Division
 Honorable A Thomas Mihok Associate Criminal Division
 Honorable Anthony H. Johnson – Juvenile Division
 Honorable Alice Blackwell – Family Court Division
 Honorable Theotis Bronson – Associate 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



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



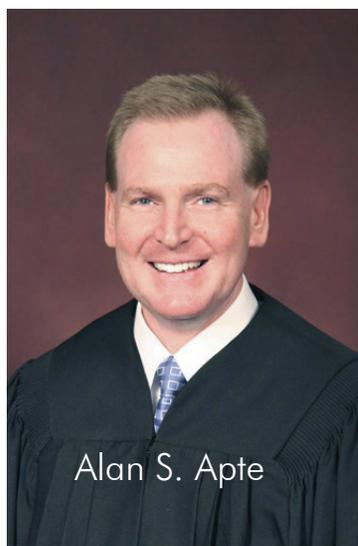
Faye L. Allen

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



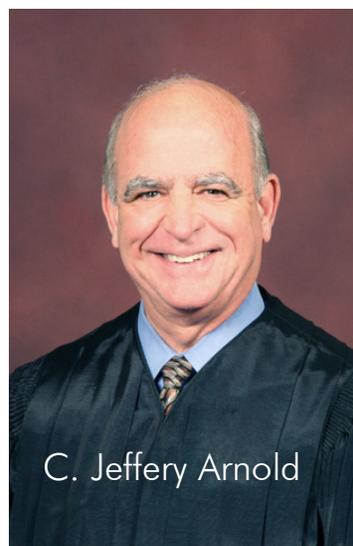
Deborah B. Ansbro

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
 Orange 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

Judiciary



Alice Blackwell

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



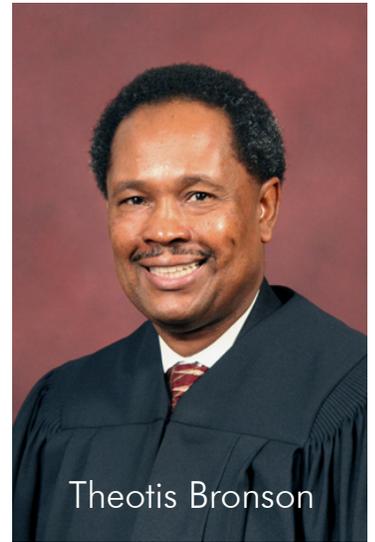
Deb S. Blechman

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



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



Carol Engel Draper

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



Robert J. Egan

Circuit Judge: 2008-present
JD: University of Florida
College of Law
BA: Mercer University
Major: Political Science



Hal C. Epperson Jr.

Osceola County Judge:
2007-present
J.D: Stetson University
B.A: 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



Heather Higbee

Orange County Judge:
2007-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: Duke University
Major: English

Judiciary



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



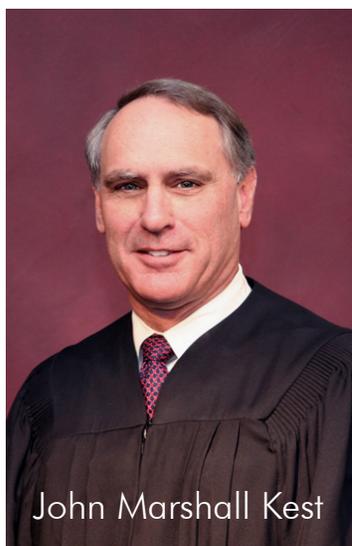
Anthony H. Johnson

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

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



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



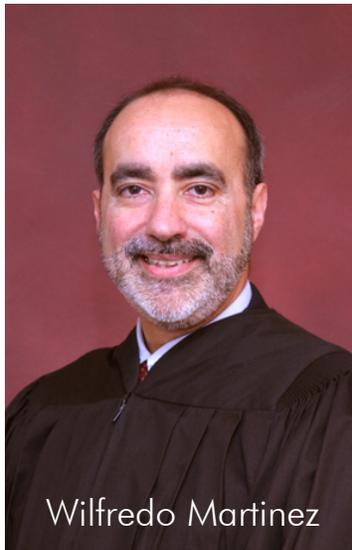
Marc L. Lubet

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

Judiciary



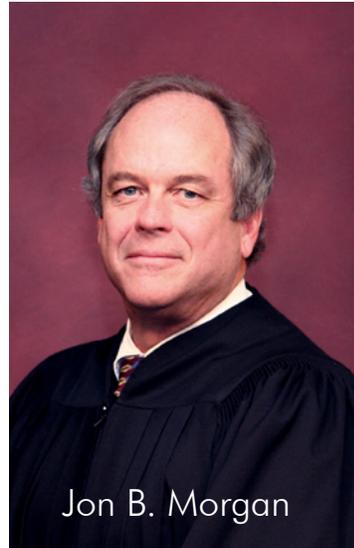
A. Thomas Mihok

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



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



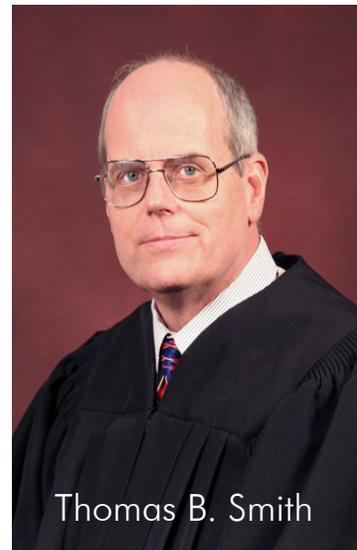
Wayne J. Shoemaker

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



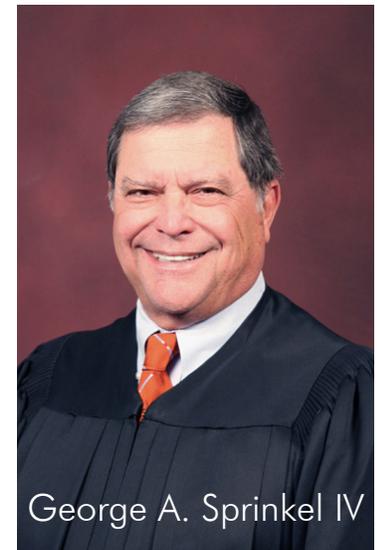
Maura T. Smith

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

Judiciary



Stan Strickland

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



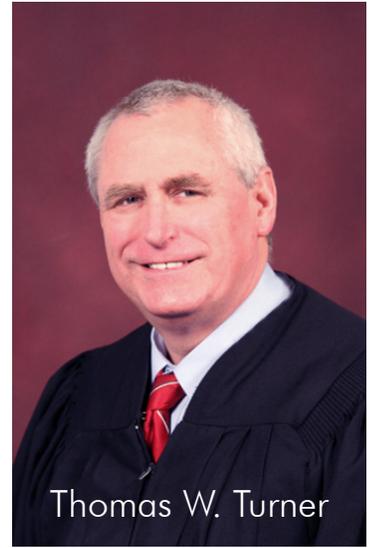
R. James Stroker

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



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



F. Rand Wallis

Circuit Judge: 2008-present
JD: Stetson University
College of Law
BA: Furman University
Major: Political Science



Bob Wattles

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



Reginald Whitehead

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



Orange County Judge:
2006-present

JD: University of Florida

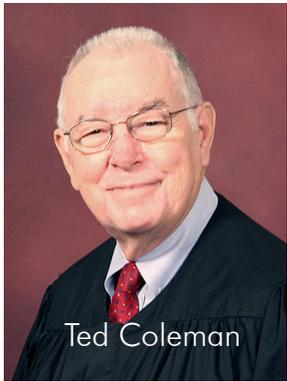
BA: University of
South Florida

Major: Political Science



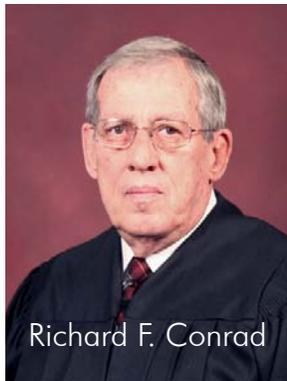
Senior/Judiciary

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.



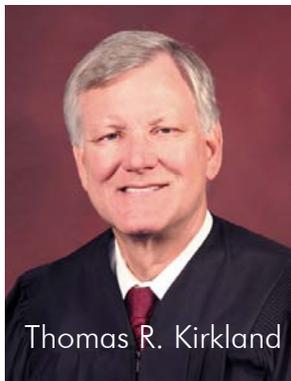
Ted Coleman

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



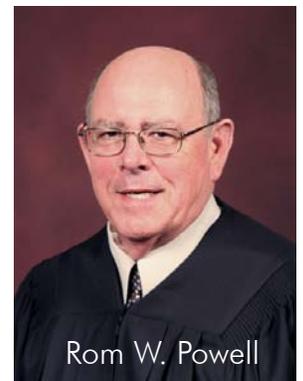
Thomas R. Kirkland

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



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



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

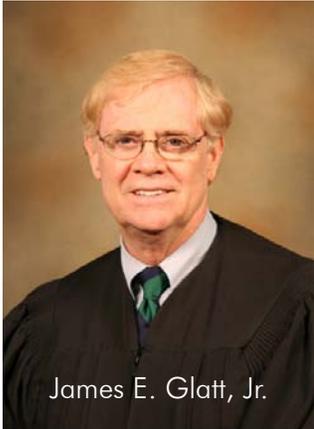


Janis Mary
Halker Simpson

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



Howard Friedman



James E. Glatt, Jr.



Maria Hinds



Linh Ison



Odessia Joyner



Anthony J. Moreno

Hearing Officers



Christine Groves



Steven Jablon



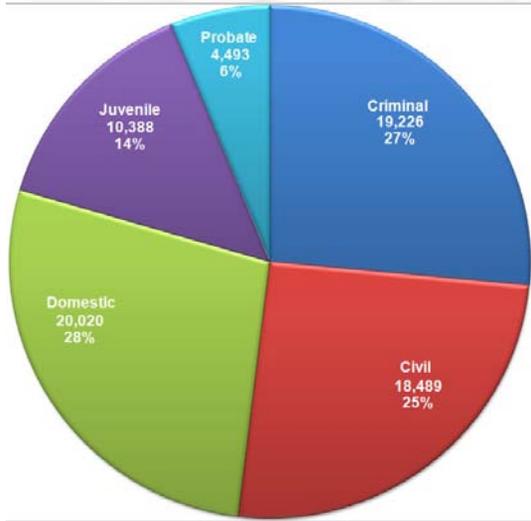
Norberto Katz



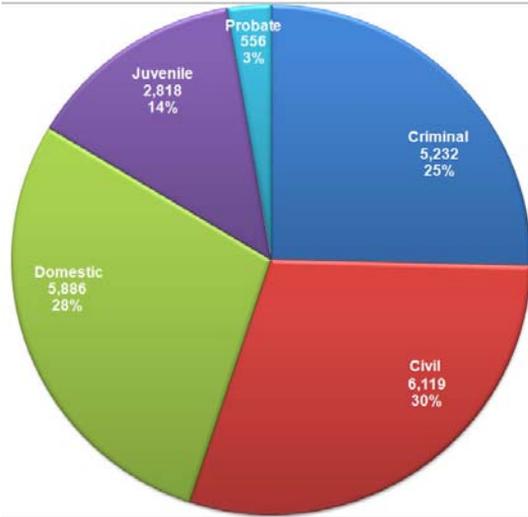
George Winslow, Jr.

Overview of Case Filings in the 9th Circuit

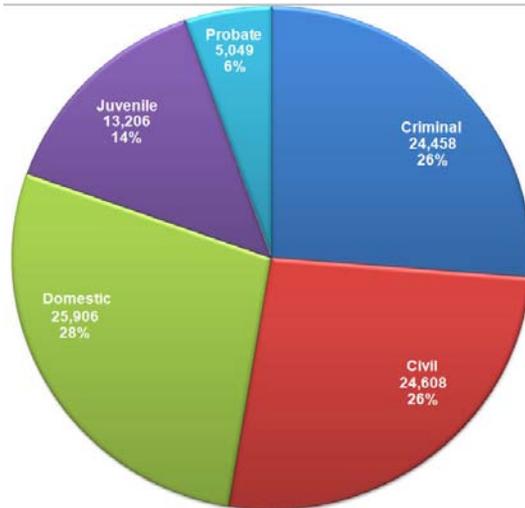
Circuit Case Filings - Orange County 2007



Circuit Case Filings - Osceola County 2007

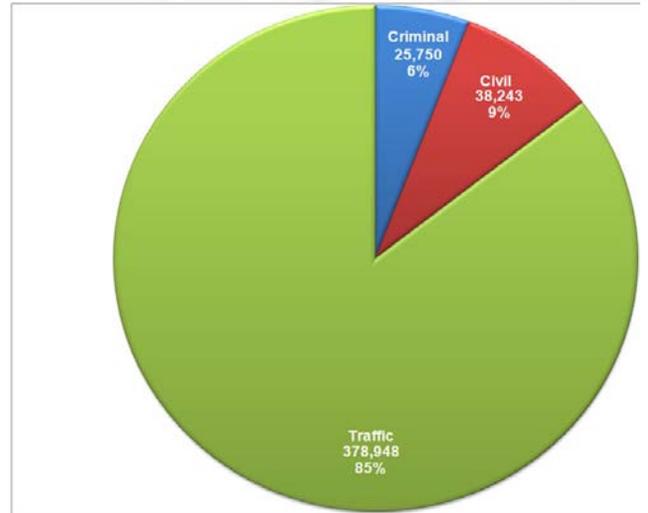


Total Circuit Case Filings - 2007

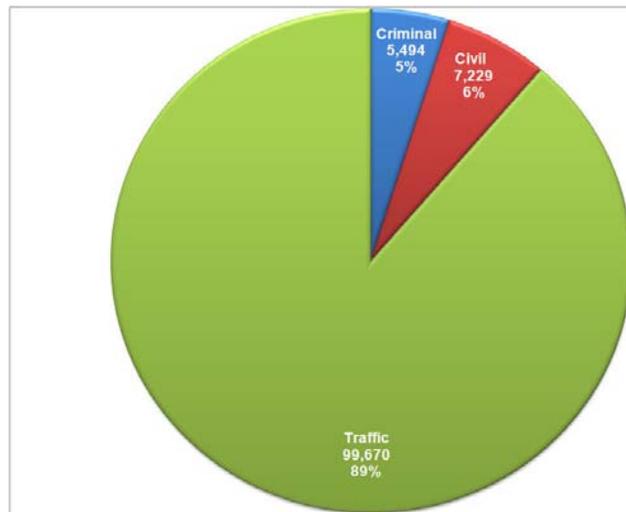


Overview of Case Filings in the 9th Circuit

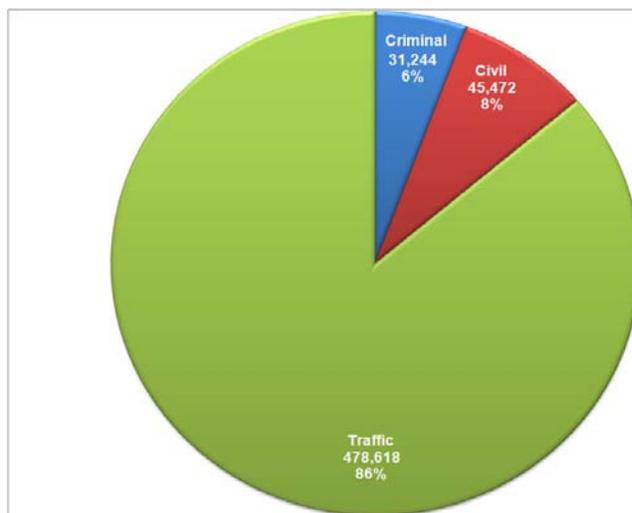
County Case Filings - Orange County 2007



County Case Filings - Osceola County 2007



Total County Case Filings - 2007



Court / Administration

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

Matt Benefiel, court administrator for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, and his staff assist the judiciary in the following areas: budget administration, fiscal administration, public information, jury management, court reporting, 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) **407-742-2400**

ORANGE COUNTY

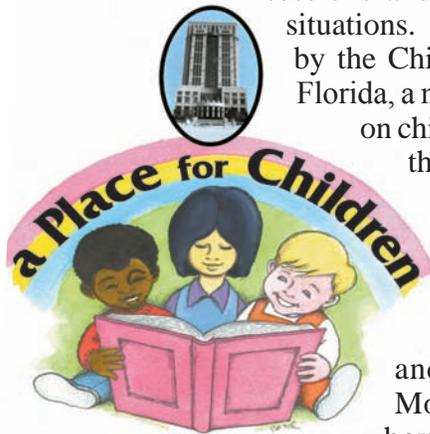
Audio/Visual Services 407-836-0522
Business Court 407-836-2366
Child Support Hearing Officers 407-836-2287
Court Interpreting Services 407-836-2399
Digital Court Reporters 407-836-2270
Official Court Reporters 407-836-2280
Court Resource Center 407-836-0517
Dispute Resolution Services (Mediation) 407-836-2004
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 407-742-2530
Children's Visitation Center 407-742-2467
Court Interpreters 407-742-2400
Court Reporting Services 407-742-2482
Dispute Resolution Services (Mediation) 407-742-2451
Drug Court 407-742-2431
Family Court Services 407-742-2538
Jury Services 407-742-2421
Magistrate 407-742-2428
Technology Services 407-742-2488
Teen Court 407-742-2465
Traffic Infraction Hearing Officer 407-742-2400

A Place for Children

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 time in long court sessions and 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](tel:407-836-2108), Ext. 3.

- **Electronic Monitoring** – This sanction is used to monitor juvenile offenders at their residence and ensure curfew compliance and consists of an ankle-worn transmitter and a Home Monitoring Unit (HMU). This sanction was provided to 35 juveniles.

- **“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, Osceola County Corrections Department, and the Osceola County Fire Department paramedics. Since its inception 12 juvenile have attended this sanction.

- **“Sanctioned to Read”** is an individualized and prescriptive reading program with the specific goal of helping juvenile offenders to build strong academic skills while they develop the desire and confidence to succeed. Juvenile offenders are sanctioned to attend 40 hours of tutoring during after school hours. This project commenced in 2008 and it is expected that around 60 juveniles will be served.

- **“Urinalysis Screening”** – Juveniles are court ordered to submit to drug and/or alcohol drug screening and may receive assistance in completing their sanctions through the Alternative Sanctions Coordinator, who provided substance abuse and alcohol urinalysis drug screening to 235 juveniles in 2007.

- **“Y.E.S.”** is designed for first time petit theft offenders. They are required to complete a Home Study Kit (available in English and Spanish) and attend a 2-hour workshop. In Osceola County, 175 juveniles have completed this sanction.

The Alternative Sanctions Coordinator also supervises and provides case management to the participants of the Juvenile Drug Court Program. For more information, call [407-742-2518](tel:407-742-2518).

An Afternoon in the Courthouse Seminar

Alternative Sanctions Program (Osceola)

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:

- **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. This service is provided only on an as needed basis.

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 21

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 Orange County Bar Association at [407-422-4551](tel:407-422-4551).

Audio/Visual Services

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 Internet broadcast. In addition to covering more than 70 court venues, the A/V staff also maintains and supports the Roger A. Barker Memorial 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](tel:407-836-0522). For assistance in Osceola County, please call [407-742-2530](tel:407-742-2530).



Child Support Hearing Officers

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 (U I F S A

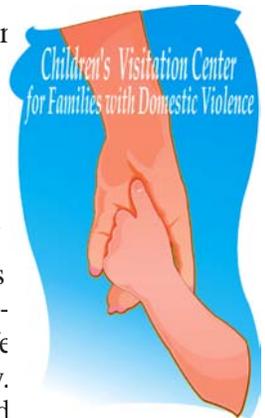


actions). With a successful hearing officer program, the citizens of the State of Florida are assured that state tax dollars and assets are used effectively and efficiently to have the parents of minor children provide for the support and well-being of their children. In Orange County, call [407-836-2287](tel:407-836-2287). In Osceola County, call [407-742-2460](tel:407-742-2460).

Child Support Hearing Officers

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

Children's Visitation Center (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, 910 families and 1,719 children have been served. Participation in this program requires a court order. For information, call [407-742-2467](tel:407-742-2467).



Civil Traffic Infractions Hearing Officer Program

Civil Traffic Infractions Hearing Officer Program -- The purpose of the Civil Traffic Infractions Hearing Officer Program is to divert less serious civil traffic

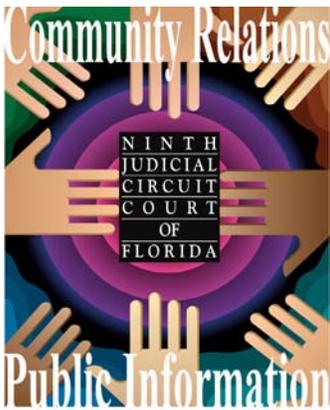
Civil Traffic Hearing Officers



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 Orange County, please call 407-836-2334. In Osceola County, please call 407-742-2400.

Community Relations/Public Information

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 website or on Orange TV, Government Access.



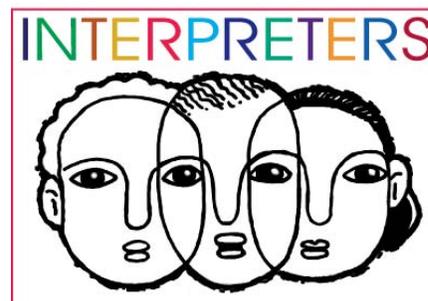
Complex Business Litigation Court

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, 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 407-836-2366.



provides a streamlined process for efficiently and effectively resolving complicated corporate and commercial disputes in a fairly short amount of time, 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 407-836-2366.

Court Interpreting Services



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 Spanish interpreters, recruiting contractual interpreters for various languages, and offering orientation and skill-building workshops. In an effort to keep up with this demand and expand its own resources, the Ninth Judicial Circuit has created and established a remote interpreting system. This innovative system affords the courts the ability to provide interpreting services to the branch

courthouses, the Juvenile Justice Center, and the Booking and Release Center, maximizing the number of cases covered by each interpreter. Interpreters are required in criminal cases for all defendants and witnesses who do not speak or understand English. The program allows a non-English speaking person to participate meaningfully in the judicial process. Court Interpreters are not for public hire. They are assigned to cover all circuit and county criminal matters, traffic, initial appearances, domestic violence injunctions and juvenile court. Orange and Osceola counties utilize staff interpreters for Spanish speakers. On-call contractual interpreters are hired when necessary. In 2007, interpreters in the circuit handled more than 27,000 cases in 29 languages, ranging 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 407-742-2400 in Osceola County.

Court Reporting Services

Court Reporting Services -- The Office of Court Reporting Services is responsible for the official record of all criminal court proceedings in the Ninth Judicial Circuit, plus other proceedings per statute and local administrative order. There are four separate departments of Court Reporting Services:



- Osceola Court Reporting
- Official Court Reporting
- Digital Court Reporting, Orange County Division
- Digital Court Reporting, Juvenile Division

The Office of Technology Services in Orange County and the Office of Information Systems in Osceola County is responsible for maintenance and support of all court reporting technology.

All transcripts/duplicate media requests are produced in-house. In 2007, all four departments combined produced 123,859 pages of transcript and 1,515 CD copies of proceedings. The department has one Manager, 35 court reporters in Orange County and 9 court reporters in Osceola County.

The Osceola Court Reporting Department covers all Osceola County circuit criminal courts, juvenile delinquency and dependency, misdemeanor and traffic courts, domestic violence court, initial appearances and arraignments, probate, guardianship, and other courts as assigned. The circuit criminal trials are covered by stenographic court reporters, and all other proceedings are covered digitally at a central monitoring station. This department has a staff of nine reporters who produced 15,460 pages of transcript and 404 CD copies of proceedings in 2007. For more information, call 407-742-2482.

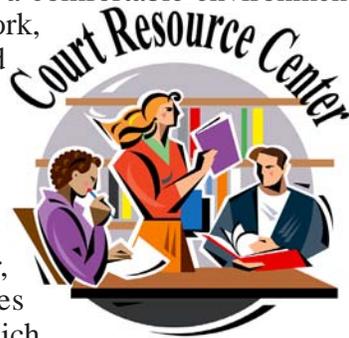
The Official Court Reporting Department (Orange County) covers all Orange County circuit criminal trials and other courts as assigned. Staff also digitally covers circuit hearings. This department has a staff of fourteen reporters who produced 78,500 pages of transcript in 2007. For more information, call 407-836-2280.

The Digital Court Reporting Department (Orange County) covers all Orange County circuit criminal hearings. Staff also covers circuit criminal trials as assigned. In addition, the department covers misdemeanor and traffic courts, domestic violence court, drug court, initial appearances and arraignments, probate, guardianship, mental health and Baker Act hearings, three satellite courts, and other courts as assigned. All criminal courts are covered from the reporter's individual workstation. All other courts are covered at the location of the proceedings. This department has a staff of seventeen who produced 23,281 pages of transcript, plus 939 CD copies of proceedings in 2007. For more information, call 407-836-2270.

The Digital Court Reporting Department, (Juvenile Division) covers all Juvenile Court proceedings, both dependency and delinquency, from the reporter's individual workstation. This department has a staff of four who produced 6,618 pages of transcript, plus 172 CD copies of proceedings in 2007. For more information, call 407-836-7503.

Court Resource Center

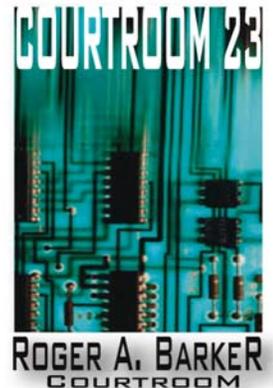
Court Resource Center -- The Court Resource Center was created to provide a comfortable environment for court visitors to work, perform legal research and obtain information. The Ninth Judicial Circuit Court and the Orange County Bar Association support the center, which offers telephones, computers 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. In 2007, the Courthouse Resource Center assisted approximately 18,600 people. The Court's website 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 www.ninthcircuit.org/courtadmin/courtresourcecenter.htm.



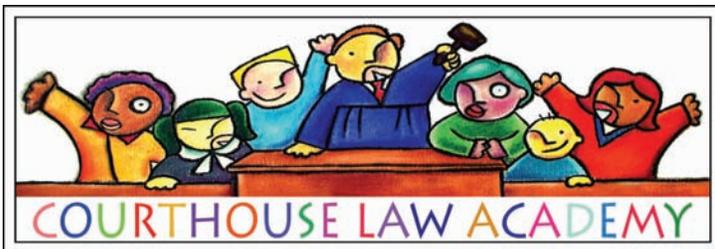
organizations, and programs are tailored for various age groups. The programs and scenarios are free and tailored to specifically fit an organization's needs. Reservations are required and group sizes are limited. For more information or to schedule this fun and educational program in Orange County, call 407-836-0521.

Courtroom 23 (The Roger A. Barker Courtroom)

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.



Courthouse Law Academy



Courthouse Law Academy -- Educating the leaders of tomorrow, the Courthouse Law Academy is an active, hands-on opportunity for students to experience a real courtroom and the dynamics of our judicial process. Hosted by a Ninth Judicial Circuit judge, this mock trial program puts young people in charge of the courtroom where they learn the dynamics of a real trial by taking on roles of prosecutor, defense attorney, clerk, juror and even judge to try such cases as the "Cookie Caper" or "Popcorn on the Mind." The Courthouse Law Academy is a sometimes zany, but always a fun way to learn about our court system and its important role in the community. Additionally, the program emphasizes the importance of the individual and encourages young people to always do their best. The Courthouse Law Academy is available to all school groups and youth

Dependency Case Coordination Program

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](tel:407-836-9560) in Orange County. In Osceola County, this service is being provided by the Court Program Specialist for the Unified Family Court. Please call [407-742-2431](tel:407-742-2431) for more information.

Dispute Resolution Services

Dispute Resolution Services -- Mediation is a way to help two parties resolve a dispute through discussions. The mediator 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](tel:407-836-2004). For information concerning mediation in Osceola County, call [407-742-2451](tel:407-742-2451).



County Mediation: Involves all county civil cases, including small claims, and landlord/tenant actions. In 2007, more than 22,000 small claims and county civil cases were referred to mediation in Orange and Osceola counties. More than 78% of the 7500 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 2007, over 4000 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 2007, over 130 cases were referred to mediation in Orange and Osceola counties.

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 the 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 both parents and children to clarify the parenting 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 2007, Parenting Coordination conducted more than 750 sessions with high conflict parents. For more information, call [407-836-2116](tel:407-836-2116).

Domestic Violence Court

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 2007, there were 6,281 domestic violence injunctions filed with the Court. 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 type of 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](tel:407-836-0579). In Osceola County, domestic violence cases are being handled by the Unified Family Court Judges. Please call [407-742-2531](tel:407-742-2531) for more information.

Drug Court

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 Ninth Circuit Court Orange/Osceola Drug Court Program Office (OCDCPO) was 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 services. 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 (sanctions). In fiscal year 2006-2007 in Orange County, 246 referrals were made to OCDCPO, 181 referrals were referred to the treatment provider for services, 154 defendants successfully graduated from the



program, providing for a successful completion rate of 84%. In fiscal year 2006-2007 in Osceola County, an additional 148 defendants were accepted into the Adult Drug Court. During this period 171 clients were discharged from the program with 92 successfully graduating. This provided a successful completion rate of 54%. In Orange County, call [407-836-0501](tel:407-836-0501). In Osceola County, call [407-742-2431](tel:407-742-2431).

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 2006-2007, 63 juveniles were admitted, and 40 were discharged of which, 15 were successful graduates for a 58% 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. The Juvenile Drug Court in Osceola County is now being overseen by the Juvenile Alternative Sanctions Coordinator. It is currently being funded under the 65 Fund and is under direct supervision of the Family Court Services. In Osceola County, for the year of 2006-2007, 16 juveniles were discharged of which 11 were successful graduates for a 69% successful completion rate. For Delinquency Drug Court in Orange County, call [407-836-9500](tel:407-836-9500). In Osceola County, call [407-742-2518](tel:407-742-2518).

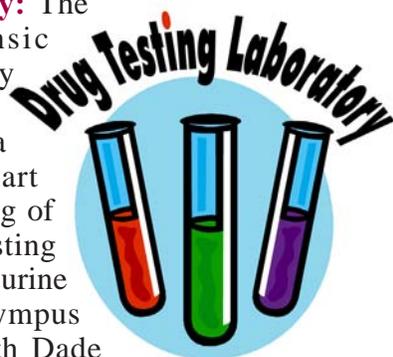
Juvenile Reentry Drug Court: The reentry drug court program identifies youths who will be (or have been) committed to a Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) commitment facility and assists their placement in this program as a condition of release. The juveniles are closely monitored by treatment and 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 22 new admissions in fiscal year 2006-2007. There were 10 discharges of which 2 were graduates for a successful completion rate of 20%. It should be noted that referrals for this program has been problematic since its inception. The Reentry Drug Court was established through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Court 27

Program Office. For more information in Orange County, call [407-836-9500](tel: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 16 new admissions in the fiscal year 2006-2007. There were 32 discharges of which 7 were graduates for a successful completion rate of 44%. In addition, more than 35 children were impacted upon by the participation of their parents in the Dependency Drug Court Program in 2006-2007. In Orange County, call [407-836-9500](tel:407-836-9500).

Osceola County Misdemeanor Drug Court (OCMDC): The OCMDC started in April 2007 as a new pilot program. It is a post plea diversionary program which was created for non-violent misdemeanor drug offenders. It provides evaluation, case management, and treatment for offenders. The client's progress is reviewed on a biweekly basis by the Judge and team members. Clients who are compliant may receive an adjudication withheld upon successful completion of the program. In Osceola County, 30 cases were accepted in 2007, of which one was discharged after successfully completing the program. In Osceola County, call [407-742-2431](tel:407-742-2431).

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. The OCFDTL testing experience, for example has 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](tel:407-962-1432).

Facilities Support Services

Facilities Support Services -- The Office of Court Administration works closely with the 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 from copiers, telecommunications and video equipment 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, judicial assistants and employees during emergencies. Both Orange and Osceola counties used the system successfully during three major hurricanes in 2004. Facilities Support Services also handles the training of staff in emergency evacuation procedures. For assistance in Orange, call [407-836-2244](tel:407-836-2244). In Osceola, call [407-742-2413](tel:407-742-2413).



Family Court Case Management



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 2007, the Family Court Case Management Office in Orange County managed 3555 pro se divorce and name change cases. This case management included reviewing court files and overseeing cases to a final hearing, referring 359 cases to Mediation, scheduling 3135 final hearings, and preparing and processing Income Deduction Orders. In Osceola County, the unit reviewed a total of 10,766 files composed of new, closed and open cases which are reviewed as needed on a daily basis; of this total, 1,673 cases were filed in 2007. In addition, the unit monitored compliance with court orders and referred 942 cases to mediation. It also assisted 7,381 litigants on a walk-in basis and answered 4,745 phone calls to inform them about the process of their open case. To learn more about the unit in Osceola County, call [407-742-2474](tel:407-742-2474). To learn more in Orange County, call [407-836-6054](tel:407-836-6054).

Family Court Programs Division

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 21,553 litigants on a walk-in basis in 2007. For more information, contact [407-742-2412](tel:407-742-2412).

Family Ties

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 1977. Since its inception, the program has 9,696 completed visits and 3,676 completed exchanges. More than 1,366 families have been through the program and 2,111 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](tel:407-836-0426). In Osceola County, this service is being provided by the Children Visitation Center. Please call [407-742-2467](tel:407-742-2467) for more information.

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](tel:407-836-2234). In Osceola County, call [407-742-2440](tel:407-742-2440).



Guardianship Monitor Program

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 newly established Guardianship Action-Line at [407-836-0503](tel: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](tel:407-836-6058). 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

471 case manager status reports in 2007. In addition, the case manager attended 45 hearings regarding Guardianship, Probate and Incapacity. To learn more about the unit in Osceola County, call [407-742-2489](tel:407-742-2489).

Human Resources Department

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 are 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](tel:407-836-2261) and in Osceola County, call [407-742-2418](tel:407-742-2418).



Injunction Processing Unit (Osceola)

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. The Injunction Processing Unit was able to serve 6,155 litigants seeking information about protection orders and/or returning for additional services. The Unit assisted 1,913 litigants file petitions for order for protection and 109 of those litigants were assisted after business hours, weekends and/or holidays. In addition, the Unit provided over 7,797 referrals and information regarding additional community resources. To learn more, call [407-742-2464](tel:407-742-2464).

Inside the Courts

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. Over 260 participants registered for the 2007 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 air regularly on Orange TV. For more information or to register for the next program, call [407-836-0517](tel:407-836-0517).



Internships

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 Injunction Processing 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 [407-742-2418](tel:407-742-2418).

Judicial Ride-Along-Program

Judicial Ride-Along 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 in to the indispensable role the courts play in the justice system. The program is designed to give them a personal understanding of the daily duties and responsibilities of the trial court judge in relation to the volume, complexity and variety of cases 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 [407-836-2047](tel:407-836-2047).



Jury Services

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 website. 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 ninthcircuit.org website allows prospective jurors to check after 5 p.m. for the next day's reporting instructions.

In Orange County, pagers are available to alert prospective jurors who need to leave the courthouse for a 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, free childcare is offered for jurors' children through A Place for Children. Reservations are required. For 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, as well as wireless capability



for juror use. Reading materials, televisions, board games, and "quiet rooms" make the jurors' experiences more enjoyable. Storage lockers are available free of charge to secure personal items while at lunch or in a courtroom. A secure smoking area is also provided.

For additional information about Jury Services in Orange County, call [407-836-2206](tel:407-836-2206). In Osceola County, call [407-742-2423](tel:407-742-2423).

Law Student Internships

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](tel:407-836-0411).

Magistrates

Magistrates -- The Magistrate Program was created to assist the court system whereby magistrates preside over matters in cases involving civil disputes, domestic relations, juvenile dependency and truancy, and mental health issues. The Ninth Judicial Circuit has six magistrates. One magistrate presides over circuit civil matters in both Orange and Osceola counties; four magistrates preside over domestic relations and mental health matters – three are assigned to Orange County and one to Osceola County; and one magistrate presides over juvenile and truancy matters in Orange County.

The magistrates are attorneys who are appointed by the Chief Judge. They preside over several thousand cases each year. For information, call [407-836-2210](tel:407-836-2210)



Media Relations

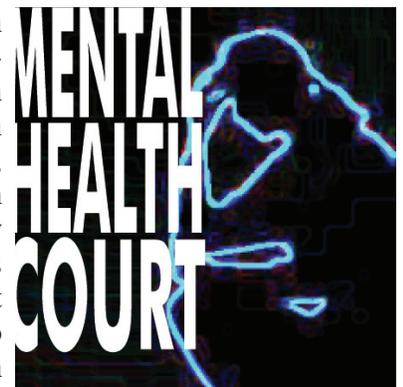
Media Relations -- It is the Ninth Judicial Circuit's goal to meet the informational needs of the media and public, ensure the rights of litigants to fair court proceedings and guarantee the operational integrity of the courts. Initial appearances and arraignments are broadcast daily on the Court's website. Whenever possible, judicial orders, jury instructions and relevant court documents are made available to the media in a timely manner on the website 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](tel:407-836-2047).

Mental Health Court (Osceola)

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 [407-742-2411](tel:407-742-2411).



Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program

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. If victim restitution is owed, full payment is required to successfully complete the program. A Sanctions Coordinator and a law enforcement officer from the community monitor the juveniles. The juveniles are required to check in once a week in the NRJ Program. 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. In 2007, 129 juveniles completed the NRJ Program with the help of the committed volunteers and police officers, and over \$9,500 of restitution was collected and paid to the victims of juvenile crime in Orange County. For information, call [407-836-9553](tel:407-836-9553).



Ninth Circuit Website



Ninth Circuit Website – The Ninth Judicial Circuit’s website is an award winning, educational, and interactive site, providing a wealth of information on the Judiciary and the Courts. In October of 2007, the Court went live with a new look website. The new design offers a dramatically different look and approach that provides portals configured for specific high volume user groups and takes advantage of the latest in web and video streaming technology. The website content includes, but not limited to, the following information:

- Administrative Orders
- Annual Reporters
- Appellate Opinions
- Audio/Visual Services
- Community Relations
- Court Dockets
- Court Forms
- Court Holidays
- Court Reporters
- Court Resource Center
- Courtroom 23
- Directions to the Courthouses
- Divisions
- Employment Opportunities
- Family Court Case Management
- Hearing Schedule
- Inside the Courts
- Judicial Profiles
- Jury Services
- Live Broadcast
- Podcasts
- Press Releases
- Speakers Bureau
- Statistics
- Talking Brochures

- Technology Services
- Tours
- Videos

In 2007, the Ninth Circuit Website entertained and educated more than 15 million hits, with an average of more than 35,000 inquiries per day. The Court's website is 100% developed and maintained by the staff of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court. Please visit the site at www.ninthcircuit.org.

Ninth in a Nutshell

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 procedural 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. Order forms for the manuals are available on the court's website on the main page and under court forms. For more information, call 407-836-2470.

Pay Up

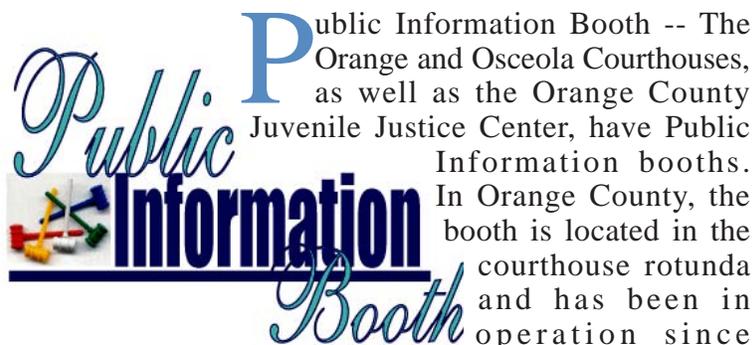
Pay Up – The Pay Up Program in Orange County holds young people accountable for their court costs, fines and fees, and provides an avenue for juvenile offenders in Orange County to earn money for payment of restitution owed to the victims of their crimes. As part of their sentence, most are ordered by the court to pay restitution, court costs and fees, but many are too young and unskilled to get a job. In 2007, the program was responsible for the collection of over \$71,000.00 in restitution, court



costs, fines and fees. Pay Up offers juvenile offenders the opportunity to work in a closely monitored and safe environment, learning work ethics, and provides them with employability training and skills. The program provides a comprehensive approach to addressing juvenile restitution developed by the Juvenile Division of the

Ninth Judicial Circuit Court, Goodwill Industries of Central Florida, Inc., the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Office of the State Attorney. For more information, call 407-836-8972.

Public Information Booth



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 30,902 hours. In 2007, volunteers in Orange County logged more than 2,862 hours which represented a savings of more than \$40,000.00. In Osceola County, information booth volunteers logged 647 hours which represented a savings of more than \$10,000 for 2007.

Sanctioned to Read

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. 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

SANCTIONED



Ninth Judicial Circuit Court
Orange County Teen Court

for language arts classes, but also helps students in other academic areas where reading comprehension is important, such as social studies and science. When the students' reading skills improve, their self-confidence and self-esteem also improve. Since the program was created, 132 students have completed the entire reading program with an average grade increase

of 1.65 in written comprehension and vocabulary, and .6 age level increase in oral/receptive vocabulary. There was also a grade level increase of 1.45 in written language skills, such as grammar. For more information in Orange County, call 407-836-9313. In Osceola County, this project commenced on October 2007 thanks to a BYRNE/JAG Grant. It is also supervised under the Alternative Sanctions Program. Please call 407-742-2518 for more information.

Speakers Bureau

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, such as alternative dispute resolution, landlord/tenant issues, small claims, court technology, family law, juvenile justice system, jury service, and the civil and criminal justice system. To request a speaker, call 407-836-0471.



Staff Attorney



Staff Attorneys 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, post conviction 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 2007, the staff attorneys researched and prepared memoranda/proposed orders in 350 appellate cases, 1,239 post conviction matters and countless other cases in all areas of the law.

Technology Services

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:



- Application development
- Audio/visual design, maintenance and support
- Computer maintenance and support
- Courtroom technology
- Database administration
- Digital court reporting
- Evidence presentation systems
- Fiber installation

Programs / Services

- Internet maintenance and support
- Public wireless internet access
- Systems administration
- Training
- Video conference
- Web page development, maintenance and support

To reach Technical Services please call [407-836-6010](tel:407-836-6010) for Orange County and/or [407-742-2530](tel:407-742-2530) for Osceola County.

Teen Court



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 or felony 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. Both Teen Courts offer free anger management classes for defendants. Orange County's Teen Court offers free parenting classes for parents, as well as a free 40-hour reading improvement course for youth called Sanctioned to Read. The Orange County program is the largest in the state, both in number of cases Orange and number of volunteers. The Orange County program handled 1,055 criminal cases in 2007 and has 265 teen volunteers. The Osceola Program handled 781 criminal cases in 2007, and its adult/teen volunteers donated a total of 4,253 hours **36** of service. Volunteers in Orange County Teen Court 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](tel:407-836-9517) and for Osceola County, call [407-742-2465](tel:407-742-2465).

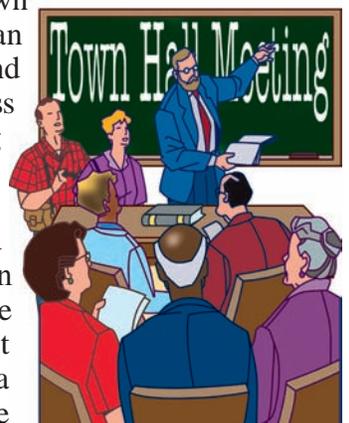
Tours

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 website. 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.ninthcircuit.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 website and complete an online request form. For additional information regarding tours of the Orange County Courthouses, call [407-836-2380](tel:407-836-2380). For additional information regarding tours of the Osceola County Courthouse, please call [407-742-2413](tel:407-742-2413).



Town Hall Meetings

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. In 2007, the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Eatonville hosted a judicial town hall meeting where



citizens, not only got the chance to meet the judges and learn about our judicial system, but also to express their views of the judiciary which helps the judges understand their needs and perceptions of the court. Town hall agendas include panel discussions, question and answer sessions, a meet and greet opportunity, and 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](tel:407-836-0517).

Truancy Court

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. In the Ninth Circuit, one responsibility of this general magistrate is to conduct Truancy Court each Wednesday during normal business hours at the Thomas S. Kirk Juvenile Justice Center. Case management for the Truancy Court is provided by the Orange County Youth and Family Services TIP Program. An additional program designed to focus on schools in our community



which have the highest truancy rates, is held on Thursday evening beginning at 4:30 p.m. and is presided over by a special magistrate. This is referred to as Community-Based Truancy Court. Case management for Community-Based Truancy Court is provided by two case managers who are supervised by the Juvenile Justice Coordinator, under Court Administration. Both the daytime and evening Truancy Courts provide students and their families with information and directions for services, as well as timely intervention. Sanctions can be imposed for noncompliance, and under certain circumstances cases can be referred to a Judge. For information on Truancy Courts, call [407-836-7590](tel:407-836-7590).

Unified Family Court (Osceola)

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 4,000 cases per month 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 [407-742-2531](tel:407-742-2531).

Volunteer Program

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](tel:407-836-2261) and in Osceola County call [407-742-2418](tel:407-742-2418).

Judicial / Judicial Assistant Contact List

Adams, Gail A. 407-836-7590 Kim Richardson-Fryer	Egan, Robert J. 407-836-7590 Lynn Harasti	Legendre, Ronald A. 407-742-2509 Judy Taylor	Shoemaker, Wayne J. 407-836-0530 Sarah Sanchez	Russell, Dorothy J. 407-836-2284
Adams, Sr., John H. 407-836-2281 Kathy Payne	Epperson, Jr., Hal C. 407-742-2554 Linda Groom	Lubet, Marc L. 407-836-2022 Kristen Mueller	Smith, Maura T. 407-836-0540 Julie Andrade	Halker Simpson, Janis Mary 407-836-2284
Adams, Martha C. 407-836-2072 Laurie McGee	Evans, Robert M. 407-836-2336 Debbie Roach	Mackinnon, Cynthia Z. 407-836-2320 Annette Tracy	Smith, Thomas B. 407-836-2119 Melissa Goodwin	MAGISTRATES
Allen, Faye L. 407-836-2257 Tanya Dunbar	Fleming, Jeffrey M. 407-836-2312 Terry Marino	Martinez, Wilfredo 407-836-0521 TBA	Sprinkel IV, George A. 407-836-2040 Kathleen Linnemeier	Freidman, Howard 407-836-7544 Elizabeth Briggs
Ansbro, Deborah B. 407-836-2481 Lauren Moyer	Freeman, Carolyn B. 407-836-2093 Trish Legros	McDonald, Roger J. 407-836-7590 Cathy Akers	Strickland, Stan 407-836-2121 Donna Morris	Glatt, James 407-836-2024 Natalya Rehler
Apte, Alan S. 407-742-2506 Jennifer Hamilton	Grincewicz, Donald E. 407-836-0560 Darlene Mahaleris	Mihok, A. Thomas 407-836-7590 Jessica Padin	Stroker, R. James 407-742-2558 Dee McClendon	Hinds, Maria 407-836-1621 Marcy Kolpin
Arnold, C. Jeffery 407-836-2324 Darlene Knapp	Higbee, Heather L. 407-836-0598 Donna Issacson	Miller, W. Michael 407-836-2091 Sara Riddle	Thorpe, Janet C. 407-836-1486 Susan Michele	Ison, Linh T. 407-742-2428 Yazel Ortiz
Bell, Maureen 407-836-2266 Barbara Harris	Jancewicz, Stefania 407-742-2495 Lisa Kuchinskas	Morgan, Jon B 407-742-2516 Kristen Keene	Turner, Thomas W. 407-836-0441 Sherri Sharp	Joyner, Odessia 407-836-1682 Marcy Kolpin
Blackwell, Alice L. 407-836-2084 Jennifer Edmundson	Jewett, Steve 407-836-2034 Jamee Valley	Munyon, Lisa T. 407-836-2470 Lisa Shorten	Waller, Margaret T. 407-742-2499 Trina Bryant	Moreno, Anthony J. 407-836-1686 Natalya Rehler
Blechman, Deb S. 407-836-2354 Judy Ball	Johnson, Anthony H. 407-836-7590 Pepper Nangle	Murphy, Mike 407-254-7667 Eddie Meltzer	Wallis, F. Rand 407-836-2014 Casie Creekmore	HEARING OFFICERS
Brewer, Jerry L. 407-836-2352 Becky Bichard	Jordan, John E. 407-836-4709 Cathy Stephens	O'Kane, Julie H. 407-836-0586 Maureen Lipe	Wattles, Bob 407-836-0545 Auria Oliver	Groves, Christine 407-836-2287
Bronson, Theotis 407-836-2229 Candi Shelton	Kest, John Marshall 407-742-2491 Diane Iacone	Perry, Jr., Belvin 407-836-2008 Jill Gay	Whitehead, Reginald 407-836-2028 Pat Jerry	Jablon, Steven 407-742-2460
Cheek III, Leon B. 407-836-0524 Kathy Hoffman	Kest, Sally D.M. 407-742-2556 Gay Aaron	Plogstedt, Antoinette 407-836-2246 Renee Harper	Wixtrom, Mark D. 407-836-4526 Anna Lacy	Katz, Norberto 407-836-2287
Clark, Nancy L. 407-254-7669 Judi Rhyne	Kirkwood, Lawrence R. 407-836-2018 Gail Robinette	Polodna, Scott 407-742-2548 Debbie Hafner	SENIOR JUDGES	Winslow Jr., George 407-836-2287
Davis, Jenifer M. 407-836-7665 Pick Griffin	Komanski, Walter 407-836-2039 Susan Stafford	Roche, Renee A. 407-836-1464 Sheri Presutti	Coleman, Ted 407-836-2284	
Dawson, Daniel P. 407-254-7665 Peggy Messier	Latimore, Alicia L. 407-836-0577 Alice Smith	Rodriguez, Jose R. 407-836-0417 Vikki Cooper	Conrad, Richard F. 407-836-2284	
Draper, Carol Engel 407-742-2513 Millie Martinez	Lauten, Frederick J. 407-836-2009 Shirley Washington	Shea, Tim 407-836-2038 Sandy Saunders	Kirkland, Thomas R. 407-836-2284	
	LeBlanc, Bob 407-836-2012 Cindy Brown		Pfeiffer, Frederick 407-836-2284	
			Powell, Rom W. 407-836-2284	
			Prather, Charles N. 407-836-2284	



ninthcircuit.org