

THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

2011 USER GUIDE / YEAR IN REVIEW 2010



NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF FLORIDA

[Page 2](#)
[Page 3](#)
[Page 4](#)
[Page 5](#)
[Page 6](#)
[Pages 7-16](#)
[Page 17](#)
[Pages 18](#)
[Page 19](#)
[Pages 20-30](#)
[Page 31](#)

Mission Statements
Chief Judge's Letter
Circuit Facts
Court Guide
Judicial Organizational Chart
Judiciary
Magistrates and Hearing Officers
Case Filings
Court Administration
Programs and Services
Judicial/Judicial Assistant 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.



Dear Citizens of Orange & Osceola Counties:

I am pleased to present to you the Ninth Judicial Circuit's 2010 Year in Review/2011 Reference Guide. This document will be helpful to you, as a reference tool, for accessing information on programs and services offered here in the Ninth Circuit. It will also shed light on some of the various changes our circuit has experienced during the last year. As such, I hope you set aside some time to read through this document.

Continuing in step with recent years, the year 2010 presented us with difficult challenges due to shrinking resources and reduced staff. In addition, another unprecedented year of financial hardships caused us to trim our budget by \$404,000 in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2010. Despite a decrease in resources, our Circuit had a steady increase in case filings. And although overall caseload per judge increased, job freezes and pay cuts made it nearly impossible to hire additional employees to lessen the burden on our judges and our staff.

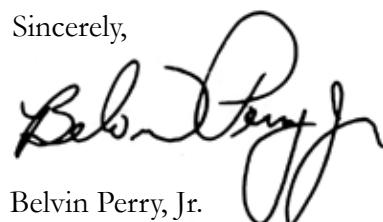
In the face of this current bleak economic outlook, the Ninth Circuit expanded the use of remote interpreting, and presently is working in conjunction with partnering circuits to pool resources together with hopes of streamlining operating expenses. In doing so, the Circuit reaffirms its pledge to cut back on expenses while trying to maintain high quality standards for judicial service.

We are additionally making great strides in alleviating the amount of backlogged foreclosure cases. Last year the Circuit cleared 53.6% of its foreclosure docket, or 22,363 cases. Disposing of these foreclosure cases helps the Circuit, as well as other agencies, by increasing tax revenues and improving the overall local economy. We hope these increased revenue streams will provide the circuit more funding in the future.

Above all, I thank our judges and our staff who have remained loyal and worked tirelessly during this past year. Yet it becomes increasingly difficult to offer only praise to employees who are overworked, have not received a COLA increase in six years, and, most recently, effectively experienced a cut in their pay. I openly wonder how long we can ask people to work under such harsh conditions, which only promise them more work and less pay.

Nevertheless, I am determined to try to meet the challenges of these difficult economic times. We will continue to work efficiently and effectively as we dispense justice to the citizens of Central Florida. I remain honored to serve as your Chief Judge and look forward to advancing the work of the judiciary in the coming years.

Sincerely,



Belvin Perry, Jr.
Chief Judge



Orange County Courthouse, Then



Orange County Courthouse, Now

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 court's jurisdiction covers over 2,000 square miles of Central Florida and 1.3 million residents. In addition, it is the top tourist destination in the world, hosting nearly 40 million visitors a year. Orlando International Airport is Florida's busiest airport and the 25nd busiest airport in the world, ranked by number of passengers in 2011. Tourists from around the globe come to enjoy the region's 99 attractions, 176 golf courses, 115,000 hotel rooms and 5,300 restaurants.

In business, Metro Orlando is considered the "Number One City for Entrepreneurs" by Entrepreneur Magazine and Bizjournal ranks Orlando as the number one city to grow a small business. The region is home to our nation's seventh largest research park, second largest university, and one of only two "medical cities" in our country. Additionally, 150 international companies representing 20 countries have branch offices here in Metro Orlando.

Communities within the Ninth Circuit hold a rich diversity of culture and language. Hispanics represent more than 26 percent of residents in Orange County and more than 45 percent of residents in Osceola County. African Americans make up 19 percent of Orange County's population and nearly 9 percent of Osceola County's population. Within the court, demand for Creole, Russian and Vietnamese language interpreters continues to grow as a result of the area's expanding Haitian, Eastern European and Asian population growth.

The Ninth Judicial Circuit is the third largest of Florida's 20 judicial circuits in regards to caseload. The circuit falls under the jurisdiction of the Fifth District Court of Appeal in Daytona Beach, one of five district courts of appeal. The Florida Supreme Court located in Tallahassee is the state's highest court.

As a court of general jurisdiction, the Ninth Circuit consists of both county and circuit courts, presiding over criminal, civil, traffic and juvenile proceedings. The court consists of 62 judges, 5 magistrates and 4 hearing officers. 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 recommended 47 judgeships for the Ninth Circuit while the Legislature funded 20 new positions.

Even with the economic decline, the overall caseload in the Ninth Circuit in 2011 continued to rise, primarily as a result of increased home foreclosures. As our state and nation continue to work toward economic recovery, caseloads are expected to increase further. For this reason, a properly funded state court system is essential to our economy and the fair, impartial and timely administration of justice that all citizens of Florida deserve.



Osceola County Courthouse, Then



Osceola County Courthouse, Now

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 offices of the State Attorney and Public Defender 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, juvenile 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.

Orange County Jail 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.



Branch Courthouses

Orange County Judges travel to the three satellite courtrooms in Ocoee, Apopka and Winter Park to hear traffic cases 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 Clerk of the Court processes all county court matters, including traffic, misdemeanor and civil cases involving disputes less than \$15,000, passports, landlord/tenant evictions, and marriage licenses.

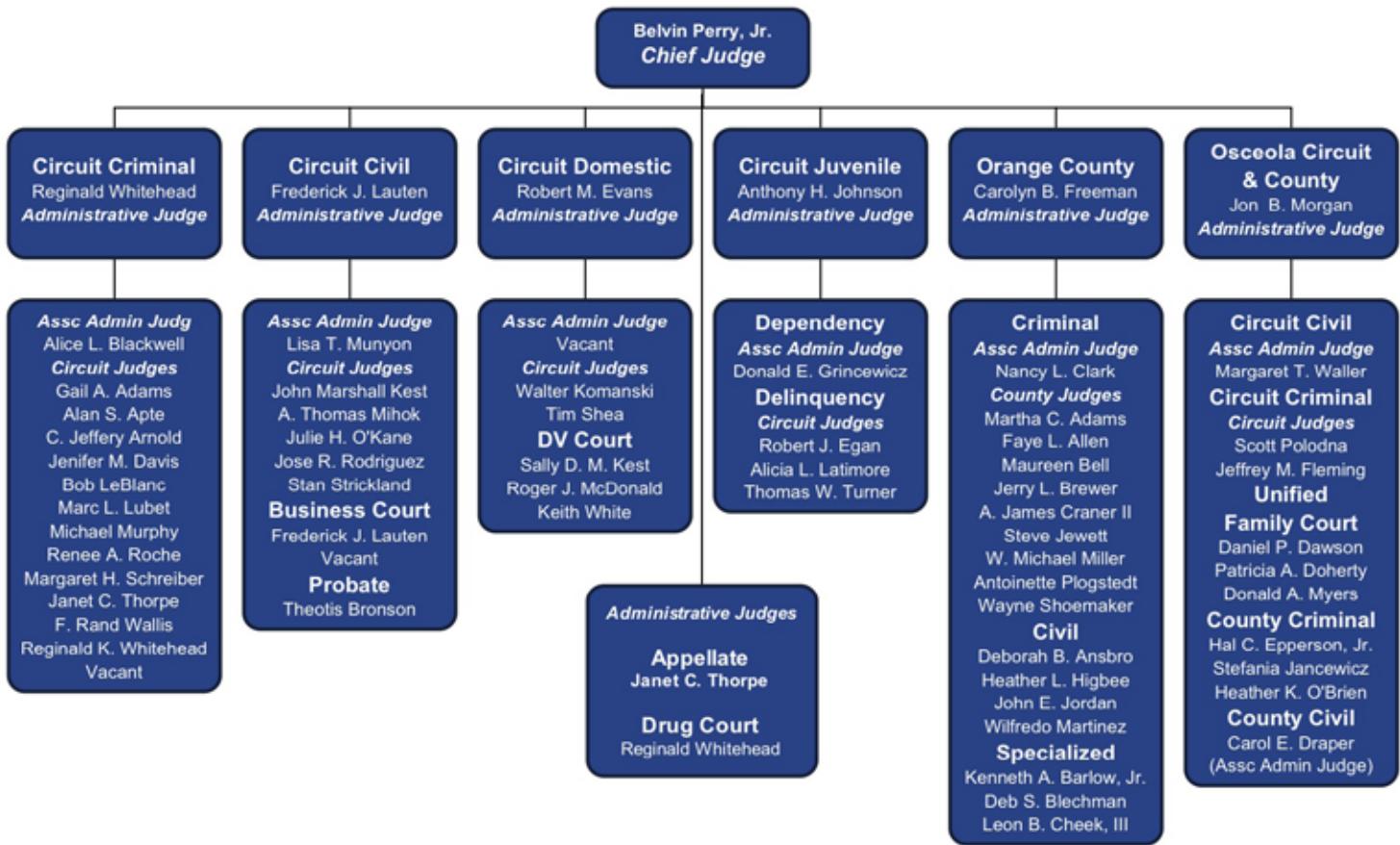


The **Winter Park Branch Courthouse** is located at 450 North Lakemont Avenue in Winter Park. The Clerk of the Court moved there in 1991 and the courts began operation in 1992. Prior to that, Winter Park court cases were heard

at the Winter Park City Hall,

and the Clerk of the Court was housed across the street. Traffic hearing officers hold infraction hearings on Tuesdays, and a judge hears court matters on Fridays. The building houses offices for the judge and hearing officer and an arraignment courtroom. The State of Florida renews driver licenses at this location. The Clerk of the Court processes all county court matters, including traffic, misdemeanor and civil cases involving disputes less than \$15,000, passports, landlord/tenant evictions and marriage licenses.

Judicial Organizational Chart



Administrative Judges Serving in 2010

Honorable Frederick J. Lauten - Circuit Civil Division
Honorable Robert M. Evans - Associate Civil Division
Honorable Reginald K. Whitehead - Criminal Division
Honorable A. Thomas Mihok - Associate Criminal Division
Honorable Anthony H. Johnson - Juvenile Division
Honorable Donald E. Grincewicz - Associate Juvenile Division
Honorable Lisa T. Munyon - Family Court Division
Honorable Cynthia Z. Mackinnon - Associate Family Court Division
Honorable Jon B. Morgan - Osceola Circuit and County
Honorable Carol E. Draper - Associate Osceola County
Honorable Reginald K. Whitehead - Drug Court
Honorable Janet C. Thorpe - Appellate Division
Honorable Carolyn B. Freeman - Orange County
Honorable Nancy L. Clark - Associate Orange County

Administrative Judges Serving in 2011

Honorable Frederick J. Lauten - Circuit Civil Division
Honorable Lisa T. Munyon - Associate Civil Division
Honorable Reginald K. Whitehead - Criminal Division
Honorable Alice Blackwell - Associate Criminal Division
Honorable Anthony H. Johnson - Juvenile Division
Honorable Donald E. Grincewicz - Associate Juvenile Division
Honorable Robert M. Evans - Family Court Division
Honorable Vacant - Associate Family Court Division
Honorable Jon B. Morgan - Osceola Circuit and County
Honorable Carol E. Draper - Associate Osceola County
Honorable Reginald K. Whitehead - Drug Court
Honorable Janet C. Thorpe - Appellate Division
Honorable Carolyn B. Freeman - Orange County
Honorable Nancy L. Clark - Associate Orange County

Judiciary



Gail A. Adams

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



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



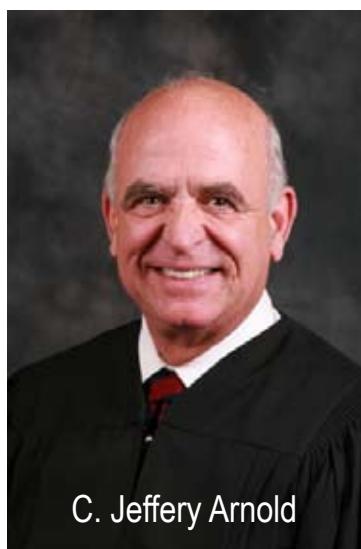
Deborah B. Ansbro

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



Alan S. Apté

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



Kenneth A. Barlow, Jr.

Orange County Judge:
2009-present
JD: Cumberland School
of Law
BA: English: University of the
South
Major: English Literature



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 L. 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



A. James Craner

Orange County Judge:
2011-present
JD: University of Akron
BA: Kent State University
Major: Criminal Justice



Jenifer M. Davis

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

Judiciary



Daniel P. Dawson

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



Patricia A. Doherty

Circuit Judge: 2010-present
JD: University of Florida
BS: University of Florida
Major: Physical Therapy



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
JD: Stetson University
BA: Stetson University
Major: Political Science



Robert M. Evans

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



Jeffrey M. Fleming

Circuit Judge 2005-present
County Judge: 2002-2005
JD: Florida State University
BA: University of Central Florida
Major: Political Science



Carolyn B. Freeman

Orange County Judge:
1991-present
JD: Florida State University
BA: Rollins College
Major: Business

Judiciary



Donald E. Grincewicz



Heather L. Higbee



Stefania Jancewicz



Steve Jewett

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

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

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

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



Anthony H. Johnson



John E. Jordan



John Marshall Kest



Sally D. M. Kest

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

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

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

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

Judiciary



Walter Komanski



Alicia L. Latimore



Frederick J. Lauten



Bob LeBlanc

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

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

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

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



Marc L. Lubet



Wilfredo Martinez



Roger J. McDonald



A. Thomas Mihok

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

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

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

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

Judiciary



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

Circuit Judge: 2011-Present
Orange County Judge:
2005-2011
JD: University of Florida
BS: University of Florida
Major: Management



Donald A. Myers, Jr.

Circuit Judge: 2011-present
JD: University of Florida
BA: Emory University
Major: Psychology



Julie H. O'Kane

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



Heather K. O'Brien

Osceola County Judge:
2010-present
JD: Georgetown University
Law Center
BA: Colorado College
Major: Political Science



Belvin Perry, Jr.

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

Judiciary



Antoinette Plogstedt



Scott Polodna



Renee A. Roche



Jose R. Rodriguez

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

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

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

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



Wayne J. Shoemaker



Stan Strickland



Janet C. Thorpe

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

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

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

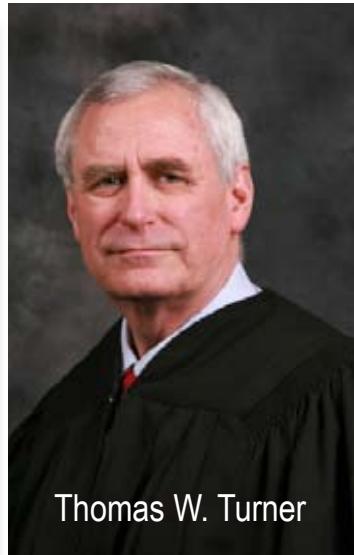
Circuit Judge: 1983-present
County Judge: 1977-1983
Municipal Court Judge: 1974-1976
JD: Cornell University
BA: Cornell University
Major: Industrial Relations

Judiciary



N. James Turner

Circuit Judge: 2009-present
JD: University of Miami
School of Law
BA: Bently College
Major: Accounting



Thomas W. Turner

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



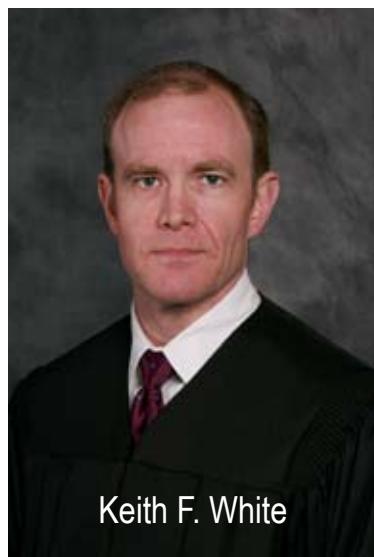
Margaret T. Waller

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



Keith F. White

Circuit Judge: 2011-present
JD: Florida State University
BA: University of Central Florida
Major: Engineering



Reginald Whitehead

Circuit Judge: 1995-present
County Judge: 1994-1995
JD: University of Florida
BA: University of Mississippi
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.



John H. Adams



Ted Coleman



Thomas R. Kirkland



Lawrence R. Kirkwood

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

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

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

Senior Judge:
1981-present
JD: University of Florida
MA: University of Nevada-Reno
BA: Florida Southern College
Major: History/Government



Ronald A. Legendre



Cynthia Z. Mackinnon



Jeffords Miller



Rom W. Powell

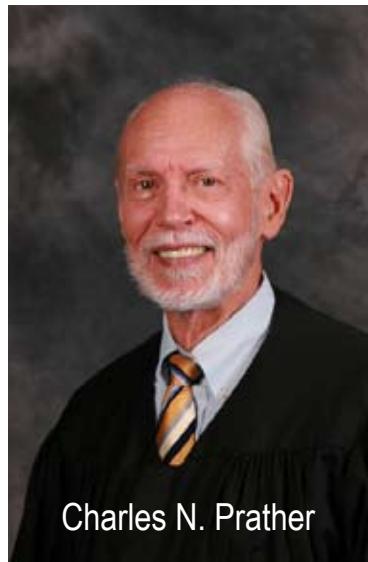
Senior Judge 2010-present
Osceola County Judge:
1981-2010
JD: Florida State University
BA: Loyola of New Orleans
Major: History

Senior Judge:
2011-present
Circuit Judge: 1994-2011
JD: University of Florida
MA: Emory University
BA: Emory University
Major: English

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

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

Senior Judiciary



Charles N. Prather

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



Dorothy J. Russell

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



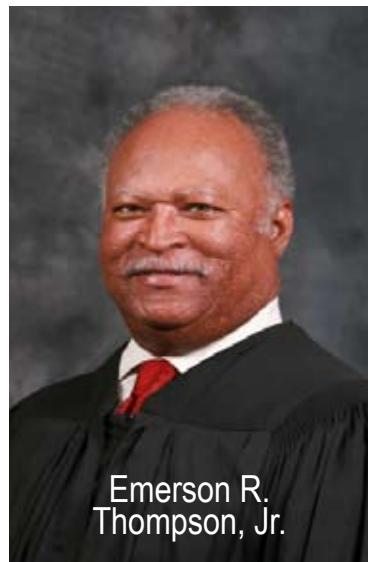
Janis Mary
Halker Simpson

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
Major: Sociology



Maura T. Smith

Senior Judge:
2011-present
Circuit Judge: 1996-2011
JD: Florida State University
BA: Tufts University
Major: Economics



Emerson R.
Thompson, Jr.

Senior Judge:
2008-present
Appellate Judge:
1993-2008
Circuit Judge: 1980-1993
County Judge: 1976-1980
JD: Florida State University
BA: University of Florida
Major: Political Science

Magistrates & Hearing Officers

Magistrates



Howard Friedman



James E. Glatt, Jr.



Maria Hinds



Linh Ison



Odessia Joyner



Linda Skipper

Hearing Officers



Christine Groves



Steven Jablon



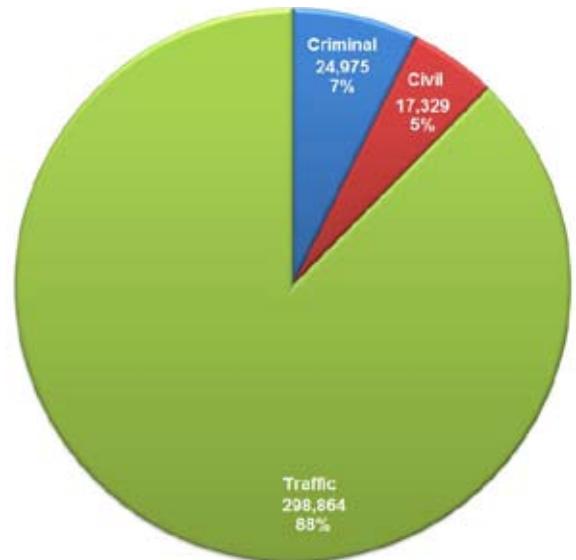
Norberto Katz



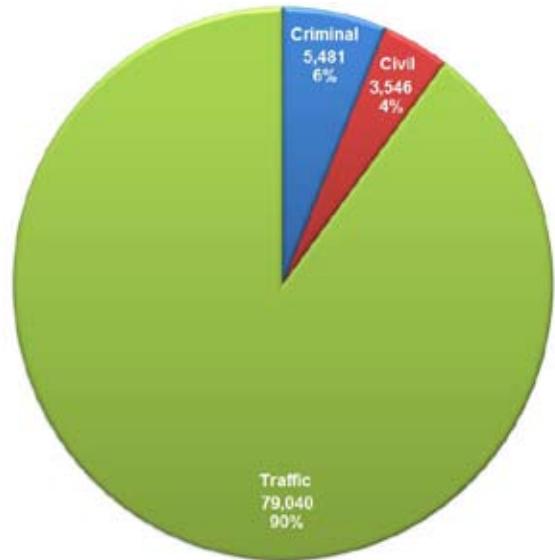
George Winslow, Jr.

Overview of Case Filings in the 9th Circuit

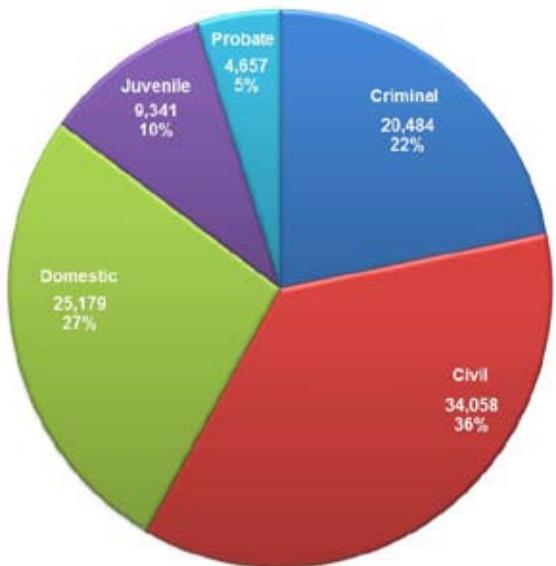
County Case Filings - Orange County 2010



County Case Filings - Osceola County 2010



Total Circuit Case Filings - 2010



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)
Administrative Offices (Osceola County)

..... **407-836-2050**
..... **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
Court Reporter Services	.....	407-836-2270
Court Resource Center	.....	407-836-0474
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
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

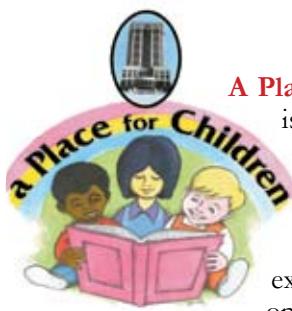
Audio/Visual Services	.....	407-742-2530
Children's Visitation Center	.....	407-742-2467
Court Interpreters	.....	407-742-2400
Court Reporting Services	.....	407-742-2482
Dispute Resolution Services (Mediation)	.....	407-742-2451
Drug Court	.....	407-742-2431
Family Court Services	.....	407-742-2538
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

NinthCircuit.org

Follow us on Twitter.



Programs / Services



A Place for Children -- A Place for Children is a licensed, on-site childcare facility for families with official court business that provides children with a place to relax and have fun as an alternative to spending time in long court sessions or being exposed to adult situations. The program is operated by the Children's Home Society of Florida, a non-profit agency which has focused on child welfare issues for more than 100 years. A Place for Children, which began in 1998, is funded by the City of Orlando, Court Administration, Central Florida Association of Women Lawyers, The Galloway Foundation, The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, The Florida Bar Association Foundation and private contributions. More than 25,000 children have been served by this licensed, drop-off center since its inauguration. The program, which cares for children between the ages of one to fourteen, also offers information and referrals for community programs to high-risk families in need of social services. Last year more than one-quarter of the center's users accepted referrals for community services. 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, children's DVD's or monetary donations, please call **407-836-2108, Ext. 3.**

Alternative Sanctions Program (Osceola) – The Alternative Sanctions 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, the program's mission has been to provide alternative sanctions to incarceration for juvenile offenders in Osceola County, such as:

- Community Service – When Juveniles are Court-ordered to complete community service, they may receive assistance to find a community service project location in order to comply with their sanction. This service is provided only on an as-needed basis.
- Electronic Monitoring – This sanction is used to monitor juvenile offenders at their residence to ensure curfew compliance through the use of an ankle-worn transmitter and a Home Monitoring Unit (HMU). This sanction was provided to 7 juveniles last year.
- “Sanctioned to Read” is an individualized and prescriptive reading program which aims to help juvenile offenders build strong academic skills and to develop the desire and confidence to succeed. Juvenile offenders are sanctioned to attend 40 hours of tutoring during after-school hours. In 2010, this program provided service to 34 juveniles.
- Urinalysis Screening – When juveniles are Court-ordered to submit to drug and/or alcohol drug screening, they may receive assistance in completing their sanctions through the Alternative Sanctions Coordinator, who provided 327 urinalysis drug screens in 2010.

The Alternative Sanctions Coordinator also supervises and provides case management to the Juvenile Drug Court Program participants. For more information, call **407-742-2518.**

An Afternoon in the Courthouse Seminar (Orange) -- This award-winning seminar's focus is to share helpful hints with area attorneys who practice before the judges of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court. It provides insight into local judicial practices and procedures and is designed to teach new attorneys the “nuts and bolts” of how to successfully navigate the courts. The seminar, presented by the Young Lawyers Section of the Orange County Bar Association, is open to attorneys, law clerks and legal assistants, and is offered once a year. Teams of judges from various divisions teach the seminar. 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.**



**A/V
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 which centralizes service delivery and support. From a single location or from any computer on the network, A/V staff facilitates and supports video arraignments and initial appearances, video conferencing, digital court reporting, centralized interpreting, media production, evidence presentation systems and Internet broadcasting. 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 audio/video pedestal is located at both the courthouse and jail facilities to accommodate the media for courtroom, initial appearance and arraignment proceedings. An engineer is available at all times to assist with signal connection and troubleshooting. A request form for remote video testimony as well as a listing of all A/V services can be found at www.NinthCircuit.org. For assistance in Orange County, call **407-836-0522**. In Osceola County, call **407-742-2530**.

Child Support Hearing Officers -- Child Support Hearing Officers assist judges by handling cases assigned to the domestic relations division, thereby reducing each respective judge's heavy caseload. The hearing officers are responsible for hearing and resolving all Department of Revenue related child support cases. These cases are filed by the Department of Revenue and include voluntary paternity actions, establishment of support, public assistance reimbursement, medical/health insurance obligations and the enforcement and modification of existing support orders. The hearing officers also hear and resolve establishment, enforcement and modification of out-of-state support requests (UIFSA actions). With a successful hearing officer



Child Support Hearing Officers

Programs / Services

program, the citizens of the State of Florida are assured that state tax dollars and assets are used effectively and efficiently. To ensure that parents provide for the support and well-being of their minor children, please call **407-836-2287**.

Children's Visitation Center (Osceola) -- The center opened in Osceola County in February of 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 where children affected by Domestic Violence injunctions, divorce, paternity, criminal and dependency cases can spend time with their non-custodial parent in a pleasant and safe atmosphere. The center also provides monitored exchanges and day-visit services, allowing parents child visitation through safe exchanges. Since the program began, 1,185 families and 2,063 children have been served. Participation in this program requires a court order. For information, call **407-742-2467**.

Civil Traffic Infractions Hearing Officer Program -- The purpose of the Civil Traffic Infractions Hearing Officer Program is to divert less serious civil traffic infractions away from the more formal traffic 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

Civil Traffic Hearing Officers



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 -- The judges and staff of the Ninth Circuit are committed to educating the public on the workings of the court and the role and responsibilities the court has within the community. For this reason, the court has developed a comprehensive public information program that inspires public trust and confidence and allows for greater transparency within our third branch of government. Successful community outreach programs and services include: Inside the Courts, Judicial Ride-Along, Speakers Bureau and Town Halls. The court's award-winning website, www.ninthcircuit.org, offers a wealth of information and educational resources for both legal professionals and self-represented litigants. The court has delved further into the technological realm by 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, NinthCircuit.org, or on Orange TV, Government Access. Most recently, the Ninth Circuit signed on and can now be followed on Twitter for updates on court events and information. In addition, the judges and court staff are always ready to visit schools, community groups, and professional organizations to speak about the operations of our courts and the important role the court serves in today's society. For additional information, call **407-836-2047** or email ctadkl1@ocnjcc.org.

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, which normally require more intense 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 associated with 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 -- The Ninth Judicial Circuit faces the ever-growing challenge of meeting the needs of Central Florida's increasing ethnic and linguistic diversity. In response to this challenge, the court operates a Court Interpreter Program composed of a number of certified Spanish staff interpreters and a program manager. Spanish was the most frequently used language, followed by Creole, Portuguese, American Sign Language, Vietnamese and Russian. By law, interpreters are required in all criminal cases for any all defendants or and witnesses who do not speak or understand English. The program provides the necessary service to allow a non-English speaking person to participate meaningfully in the judicial process. Court interpreters are assigned to cover all circuit and county criminal cases, traffic, initial appearances, domestic violence injunctions and juvenile court matters. They are not for public hire. For non-Spanish languages interpreting service is provided by recruiting contracting freelance interpreters. The Circuit maintains a roster of highly qualified individuals that provide their services upon demand. These freelance interpreters are offered training orientation and skill-



INTERPRETERS



Programs / Services

building workshops to ensure quality in service. These on-call, contractual interpreters are used by the court when necessary. In an effort to meet the growing demand given our with limited resources, in 2007, the Ninth Judicial Circuit has created and implemented a first-of-its-kind remote interpreting system that allows interpreting services to be conducted remotely between the Orange and Osceola County Courthouses, the branch courthouses, the Juvenile Justice Center and the Orange County Jail Booking and Release Center. The system maximizes the number of cases covered by each interpreter which results in considerable savings in the interpreter's State budget. Due to the implementation of the remote system, in the past two fiscal years, the Circuit savings on the interpreter budget allotment is calculated at over \$90,000. The system has reduced contractual expenditures by 23%. Currently, the Ninth Circuit is working towards expanding the solution of a centralized remote interpreting program, Statewide. From 2009 to 2010, interpreters in the circuit handled almost 27,000 cases in 29 languages, ranging from Albanian to Vietnamese. Spanish was the most frequently used language, followed by Creole, Portuguese, American Sign Language, Vietnamese and Russian. To learn more, call **407-836-2399** for Orange and Osceola Counties.

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 2010, all four departments combined produced 125,427 pages of transcript and 1,736 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 9 reporters who produced 26,456 pages of transcript and 487 CD copies of proceedings in 2010. 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 14 reporters who produced 57,187 pages of transcript in 2010. 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 17 who produced 36,091 pages of transcript, plus 1,063 CD copies of proceedings in 2010. 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 4 who produced, in 2010, 5,693 pages of transcript, plus 194 CD copies of proceedings. For more information, call **407-836-7503**.

Court Resource Center -- The Court Resource Center was created to provide an environment where court visitors could perform legal research and obtain case-related information. The Ninth Judicial Circuit Court partners with the Orange County Bar Association to equip the center with court brochures, telephones, Internet-ready computers, printers, a copier and a fax machine. Each year nearly 20,000 visitors use the center's resources, oftentimes to comply with last-minute orders or legal notices. The center, which is staffed by Court Administration, is open to all Orange County Courthouse visitors. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Many of the center's services can, additionally, be found online at the court's website, NinthCircuit.org. For more information, call **407-836-0516**.



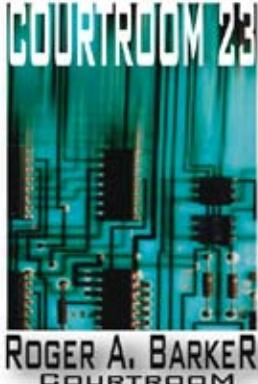
Courthouse Law Academy -- Educating the leaders of tomorrow, the Courthouse Law Academy is an active, hands-on program that gives students true courtroom experience and exposes them to our dynamic judicial system. Students participate in a mock trial, moderated by a judge, where they take on the role of prosecutor, defense attorney, clerk, juror, and judge in order to try the "Cookie Caper" and "Popcorn on the Mind" cases, among others. The Courthouse Law Academy, while sometimes zany, is always an exciting way to learn about the courts and its vital role in the community. Additionally, the program emphasizes the importance of the individual and encourages young people to strive to do their best. The Courthouse Law Academy is available to all school groups and youth organizations. Programs are developed for various age groups. The academy is free and can be tailored to fit an organization's unique needs. Reservations are required, though, and group sizes are limited. For more information or to schedule this fun and educational program in Orange County, call **407-836-0521**.



Programs / Services

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, located in the William & Mary Law School, 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 its own technologically advanced courtroom – Courtroom 23. The courtroom contains the following key elements:



- advanced audio
- digital court reporting
- real time court reporting
- document camera
- DVD/CD playback
- high definition LED display
- fiber-optic cabling
- laptop connections
- touch screen control
- video annotation
- video conferencing
- public wireless network

With annual upgrades, the courtroom continues to evolve to stay on the technological edge. Courtroom 23 is open for tours and orientation. If interested, please call **407-836-2380** or visit the Courtroom 23 web page at www.ninthcircuit.org/programs-services/courtroom23/.

Dependency Case Coordination Program -- This Court Administration program provides administrative, operational and clerical assistance to 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 of child abuse, abandonment or neglect. The department may remove the child until the concerns are resolved. When the case begins, the dependency case coordinator assists indigent parents in obtaining court-appointed counsel and helps expedite the appointment of a guardian ad litem, who represents the best interest of the child. Additionally, the case coordinator acts as a liaison among the parties to promote communication and efficiency, and provides any assistance necessary to resolve problems and avoid unnecessary delays. For more information about this program, call **407-836-9560** in Orange County. In Osceola County, a Court Program Specialist for the Unified Family Court helps expedite case processing through the courts. Please call **407-742-2531** for more information.

Dispute Resolution Services -- Mediation is a way to help two adverse parties resolve a dispute through discussions. The mediator meets with both sides to encourage and facilitate a resolution. Mediation programs provide litigants with an efficient and satisfying alternative to the traditional judicial process. By

reaching a settlement, parties avoid the uncertainty and added expense of a trial. Mediation forms a vital part of conflict resolution in county civil, juvenile dependency, domestic relations and some restitution cases. The circuit has several programs in place that use professional volunteers as well as contract mediators. For information concerning Orange County's Dispute Resolution Services, call **407-836-2004**. For information concerning mediation in Osceola County, call **407-742-2451**.



County Mediation: Involves all county civil cases, including small claims, and landlord/tenant actions. In 2010, 17,124 small claims and county civil cases were referred to mediation in Orange and Osceola counties. More than 65% of these mediated cases reached an agreement.

Family Mediation: Consists of mediation in family cases, including divorces, paternity, visitation, parental rights, temporary matters, child support and issues that arise in cases that may have already been before a judge. In 2010, 3,941 family cases were referred to mediation in Orange and Osceola counties. Approximately 62% 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 advocate 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 2010, 118 cases were referred to mediation in Orange and Osceola counties.

Arbitration: A dispute resolution process in which a neutral third party renders a decision after both parties have been given the opportunity to voice their opinions in a hearing. Arbitration may be court ordered (non-binding) or voluntary (binding or non-binding depending on the agreement).

Small Claims Arbitration: A voluntary program, which is an alternative to litigation, for unrepresented parties in small claims cases. 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 willing to serve as arbitrators in court ordered non-binding arbitration.

Parenting Coordination: This program is administered by Dispute Resolution Services. The goal of the Parenting Coordination Program is to successfully reduce stress in children of separated/divorcing families by strengthening co-parenting. Parenting Coordinators are certified family mediators who either have a legal or mental health background. The Parenting Coordinator usually meets with each parent separately along with the 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

Programs / Services

parenting disputes and increasing parenting knowledge (child development, child divorce issues). In 2010, Parenting Coordination conducted approximately 2,300 sessions with high-conflict parents. For more information, call **407-836-2116**.

Domestic Violence Court -- The new Domestic Violence Court has dramatically changed the way domestic violence and other family-related cases are heard and processed. In 2010, there were 4,535 domestic violence injunctions filed with the court. Streamlining the way in which these cases are processed ensures more accountability, addresses a variety of safety issues, enhances enforcement efforts and provides judges with the comprehensive information they need to make consistent and informed decisions. There are three courtrooms on the 16th floor of the Orange County Courthouse that are dedicated to cases where domestic violence is alleged. Security officials direct the petitioners and the respondents to separate, secure reception areas. All cases are heard individually. In addition, cases are scheduled in blocks of time throughout the day so parties do not have to spend hours at the courthouse. For more information in Orange County, call **407-836-0579**. In Osceola County, domestic violence cases are handled by the Unified Family Court Judges. Please call **407-742-2531** for more information.

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 placement of substance abuse offenders into treatment services. The drug court judge reviews progress reports and holds biweekly status hearings for the participants. Participants who do not comply with the rules appear before the judge for appropriate action (sanctions). In fiscal year 2009-2010, in Orange County, 756 referrals were made to OCDCPO, of which 597 were referred to the treatment provider for treatment services, 299 were admitted to treatment, 269 were court ordered, 64 were unsuccessful and 70 graduated from the program. In fiscal year 2009-2010, in Osceola County, 95 defendants were accepted into the Felony Adult Drug Court Program. During this period, 72 defendants successfully graduated, resulting in a 76 % successful completion rate. For information about the Osceola County Adult Drug Court Program, call **407-742-2431**. In Orange County, call **407-836-0501**.

Delinquency Drug Court: When juveniles' illegal behavior is 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 that all participants undergo random urinalysis testing. 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 2009-2010, 76 juveniles were admitted and 57 were discharged, of which 31 were successful graduates, amounting to a 63% successful completion rate. The Drug Court Program Office is currently applying for a SAMHSA grant for the expansion of Juvenile Drug Court, which will increase the population of the Delinquency Drug Court Program. Osceola County began a Juvenile Drug Court Program in October 2003 thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. For more information, in Orange County call **407-836-9500** and in Osceola County call **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 with their placement in this program as a condition of release. The juveniles are closely monitored by treatment staff, DJJ staff and staff from conditional release program. All parties must attend biweekly hearings before the designated judge, who assesses their progress. Participants are required to submit to weekly random urinalysis. Reentry Drug Court was established through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Court Program Office. The Drug Court Program Office is currently applying for a SAMHSA grant for the expansion of Juvenile Drug Court. The grant will offer increased opportunities for the Juvenile Reentry Drug Court population. For more information in Orange County, call **407-836-9500**.

Family/Dependency Drug Court: The Dependency Drug Court program was launched in Orange and Osceola counties with the goal of reunifying families. Dependency Drug Court monitors the progress and compliance of a child's parent who is currently involved in drug use. The drug court program coordinator and treatment staff monitor the participant's progress through 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. In fiscal year 2008-2009, 53 parents were screened for the program and 35 parents were referred to treatment. More than 55 children have been impacted while their parents went through the program. In Orange County, call **407-836-9500**.

Osceola County Misdemeanor Drug Court: This program started in 2007, as a new diversionary program for non-violent misdemeanor drug offenders. It provides evaluation, case management and treatment for offenders. The Judge and team members review the client's progress on a biweekly basis. Clients who are compliant may have their charges dropped or adjudication withheld upon successful completion of the program. For more information, call **407-742-2431**.

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, including all support services such as copiers, telecommunications and video equipment, and air conditioning, elevators and custodial needs. Court Administration



Programs / Services

implemented an emergency notification call-in system in 2004, which aims to provide current information for all judges, judicial assistants and employees should an emergency occur. Both Orange and Osceola counties used the system successfully during three major hurricanes in 2004. Facilities Support Services also trains staff on emergency evacuation procedures. For assistance in Orange, call **407-836-2104**. In Osceola, call **407-742-2418**.

Family Court Case Management

-- Family Court Case Management supervises cases for parties who have filed for divorce or requested a name change yet have opted not to hire an attorney. The department provides information on mandatory parenting classes and acts as a liaison between social service agencies and the court. Case management duties include reviewing court files, overseeing cases throughout their pendency, referring cases to mediation, scheduling final hearings, and preparing and processing income deduction orders. In Orange County, Family Court Services began operating in February of 1995. Osceola County's intake unit opened in May of 1996. In 2010, there were 5,637 divorce filings in Orange County, of which Family Court Services managed 4,100 (73%) pro se cases, i.e. self-represented litigants. In 2010, pro se filings were up 7% from the previous year. In Osceola County, there were a total of 1,165 pro se filings in 2010, which represents 41% of all domestic cases. The unit reviewed a total of 4,392 files composed of new, re-opened and closed cases. In addition, the unit monitored court-order compliance and referred 251 cases to mediation. Additionally, it assisted 7,727 walk-in litigants, and answered 1,810 phone calls to inform them about the process and status of their open case. To learn more about the unit in Osceola County, call **407-742-2474**. In Orange County, call **407-836-6054**.



Family Court Programs Division -- In Osceola County, this division oversees various programs/units, such as the Court Case Management Unit, Unified Family Court Unit, Teen Court Program, Juvenile Drug Court Program, Alternative Sanctions Program, Guardianship, Visitation Center, Dispute Resolution Services, Guardianship Case Management and Injunction Processing Unit. These programs, with the exception of Dispute Resolution Services, are housed on the third floor of the courthouse. In 2010, assistance was provided to 20,578 litigants on a walk-in basis. For more information, contact **407-742-2412**.

Family Ties -- The concept for the Family Ties Program grew out of a concern for the safety of children in families embroiled in custody disputes. Family Ties is a court-operated, visitation/monitored exchange program that provides parent-child contact in a friendly environment that guarantees the child's safety. Family Ties opened in September of 1997. Since its inception, the program has supervised 11,015 visits and 4,744 child exchanges. More than 1,621 families and 2,490 children have participated in the program and benefitted from its services. Family Ties creates a pleasant and safe environment where children can spend time with their non-custodial parent. The program also provides monitored exchange services for families that need help

exchanging children safely between parents. Participation in Family Ties requires a court order. For information call **407-836-0426**. In Osceola County, this service is being provided by the Children Visitation Center. Please call **407-742-2467** for more information.

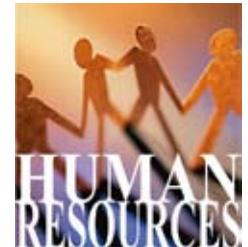
Fiscal Services -- This department is responsible for all fiscal activities in the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court, including budgeting, revenue analysis, purchasing and travel. Fiscal Services evaluates revenues and monitors expenditures from diverse funding sources, including Orange and Osceola counties and the State of Florida. For more information, in Orange County call **407-836-2234** and in Osceola County call **407-742-2411**.



Guardianship Monitor Program -- The Guardianship Monitor Program was established in Orange County to ensure that all court-appointed guardians comply with Florida 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 all wards or the misappropriation of a ward's assets and provides a written report to the court. The court monitor also makes sure certain guardians, including professional guardians, are qualified to serve by conducting criminal history and credit checks. If a member of the community suspects that a disabled or incapacitated person may be or has been mistreated or if they 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**. 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.

In 2010 the court monitor completed 32 in-depth investigations involving abuse, neglect and/or exploitation and alerted the Court to more than 173 guardian applicants with questionable credit or criminal histories. The in-depth investigations resulted in the discovery of more than \$557,000 in misappropriated funds, the recovery of \$47,500 by one fiduciary institution, the arrest of one guardian and the locating of (and bringing into compliance) more than 25 guardians. 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 108 case manager status reports in 2010. To learn more about the unit in Osceola County, call **407-742-2412**. For information in Orange County, please call **407-836-6058**.

Human Resources Department -- This department is responsible for personnel administration, including employment, classification and pay, employee benefits, employee relations, employee records, and training and development. In addition, the HR Department supervises the court's volunteer program. Human Resources is responsible for the Circuit's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and for the intake and investigation



Programs / Services

of discrimination complaints filed under the Circuit's Civil Rights Complaint Procedure. For Human Resources in Orange County, call **407-836-2261**. In Osceola County, call **407-742-2418**. Applications for employment are available at www.NinthCircuit.org.

Injunction Processing Unit (Osceola) -- The Injunction Processing Unit, formerly known as the Victim Assistance Program, provides assistance to all crime victims – including, but not limited to, victims of domestic violence – as they proceed through the criminal justice system, particularly with injunction cases. The unit is funded by the Osceola Clerk of the Court and is managed by Court Administration. It is a walk-in service – no appointment, referrals or legal representation is required. Regular business hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Over the past year, the Injunction Processing Unit was able to assist 5,492 litigants who were seeking information about protection orders and/or returning for additional services. The Unit helped 1,653 litigants file petitions for protection orders, which included 196 during weekends, holidays and/or afterhours. In addition, the Unit provided information regarding additional community resources and gave 17,704 referrals. To learn more, call **407-742-2464**.

Inside the Courts – Celebrating its 13th year, Inside the Courts has become a premier program for judicial outreach in the Ninth Circuit and now the State of Florida. The four-part educational series taught by a team of judges is uniquely designed to allow citizens to learn about the court while interacting 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, promote audience participation, and provide plenty of opportunity for audience questions. In 2010, 228 citizens registered for the program and 98 received certificates of completion from the court for attending at least 3 sessions. The program was featured in the winter 2009 issue of Full Court Press, the official newsletter of the Florida State Courts, as a model program for court-community relationship building. As a result, the concept is being adopted by other circuits statewide. Inside the Courts is free to the general public and is held annually. Sessions are produced for broadcast and air regularly on Orange County's government channel, Orange TV. For more information or to register for the next program, call **407-836-0517**.



Internships – In Osceola County, the Ninth Judicial Circuit offers internships to college students attending our local community colleges and universities. The internship program allows students an opportunity to get true hands-on experience in their area of interest, including our Injunction Processing Unit, Children's Visitation Center and Family Court. The internship program coordinators 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**.

Judicial Ride-Along Program -- The Ninth Judicial Circuit offers local and state elected officials the opportunity to experience firsthand the work of the judiciary and the important role our courts

play within the community. Tailored to the needs of visiting officials, the program allows the visitor to sit alongside a judge during court proceedings to directly observe the judicial process and to better understand the complexity and variety of cases that come before the court. The program provides community leaders with insight into the operations of the courts and opens lines of dialogue between leaders and the court on matters of mutual concern. The Judicial Ride-Along Program was recently featured as a program for court-community relationship building in the winter 2009 issue of Full Court Press, the official newsletter of the Florida State Courts. For more information, call **407-836-2047** or email ctadkl1@ocnjcc.org.

Jury Services -- The Jury Management Program of the Ninth Judicial Circuit was initiated in October of 1990, in response to a Florida Supreme Court administrative order, to efficiently manage the time and fiscal resources allocated to jury services. Through automation and effective management, jurors are used more efficiently, resulting in less inconvenience to citizens since fewer people need to be 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 state of Florida, prospective jurors are randomly summoned from a database provided by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. This method of jury selection offers a more consistent and representative pool of prospective jurors than those methods using state-issued driver licenses or identification cards. Jurors are required to serve for one day or the length of one trial. They are compensated at the rate of \$15 per day for the first three days in the event they are not paid by their employers, are unemployed or are self-employed. Juror pay increases to \$30 per day after the fourth day. 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 service on any existing Lynx bus route for transportation to and from the courthouse. In order to prepare for jury service, Orange TV airs a daily video, 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 enables prospective jurors to check in after 5 p.m. to receive the next day's reporting instructions. In Orange County, pagers are also available to alert prospective jurors who need to leave the courthouse for a few minutes. Storage lockers are available in case jurors want to secure their personal belongings. There are also vending machines, pay phones, board games and reading materials that create a more comfortable environment. Additionally, the jury assembly room has cable TV and wireless internet access. The Cyber Cafe allows visitors the chance to browse the Internet or play computer games on any of its 21 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 for this service are required.



Programs / Services

In Osceola County, the spacious jury assembly area is also equipped with amenities including vending machines, courtesy phones, a microwave, a refrigerator and complimentary coffee and tea service. A 12-computer Cyber Cafe enables jurors to browse the Internet or play computer games. The Cyber Cafe 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. For additional information about Jury Services in Orange County, call **407-836-2206** and in Osceola County, call **407-742-2423**.

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

Magistrates -- The magistrate program was created to assist the court system whereby magistrates preside over matters 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 and domestic relations matters in Orange County; 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 and serve at the pleasure of the Chief Judge. They preside over several thousand cases each year. For more information, please contact the magistrate division administrative offices at **407-836-2024**.



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, www.NinthCircuit.org. Whenever possible, judicial orders and relevant court documents are made available to the media in a timely manner. Media should visit the court's website to learn more about the policies and procedures for interaction between the media and the court. 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** or email ctadkl1@ocnjcc.org.

Mental Health Court (Osceola) -- Mental Health Court, which began in Osceola County in 2000, is a diversionary program aimed at helping mentally challenged individuals who have been arrested for non-violent misdemeanor or felony offenses receive treatment in lieu of incarceration. The Mental Health Court judge is responsible for presiding over mental health court and coordinating the roles of the judiciary with the functions of the various agencies and providers. In Osceola County call **407-742-2411**.



Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program -- The Neighborhood Restorative Justice (NRJ) Program is a diversionary program for first-time juvenile offenders. The program diverts less serious cases from the juvenile court system while empowering victims and the community so they can play a key role in the justice process. The NRJ requires juveniles take responsibility for their crimes and make the corresponding reparations. At the same time, the program builds on the offender's strengths and assets to make them productive citizens. To be eligible, the juvenile must first admit he is guilty of the charges and must accept responsibility for the harm caused. A conference is scheduled in the community where the offender lives 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 in order to successfully complete the program. A sanctions coordinator, who is a law enforcement officer from the community, monitors the juveniles. The juveniles are required to check in once a week with their assigned sanctions coordinator. They are also placed on a behavior contract which assigns curfews, makes school attendance mandatory -- they cannot receive any referrals, suspensions or expulsions -- and prohibits the use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs. 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, Maitland and the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Referrals for the Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program are made at the discretion of the Juvenile States Attorney's Office of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court. In 2010, 169 juveniles completed the NRJ Program with the help of over 50 committed volunteers and police officers who collectively volunteered over 6,000 hours of their time. Approximately \$4,000 of restitution were collected and paid to the victims of juvenile crimes in Orange County through the NRJ Program. The juveniles who completed the NRJ Program in 2010 performed over 8,000 hours of community service in their respective communities. For information, call **407-836-9553**.



Programs / Services



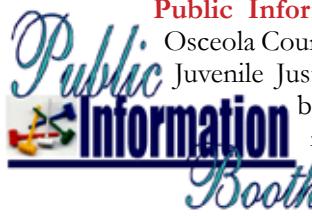
Ninth Circuit Website – The Ninth Judicial Circuit's website is an award winning, educational, and interactive site, providing a wealth of information on the judiciary and the courts. The site continues to evolve to meet the needs of users since a major upgrade was

unveiled in October of 2007. 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 is not limited to, the following information:

- Administrative Orders
- Annual Reports
- Appellate Opinions
- Audio/Visual Services
- Community Relations
- Court Dockets
- Court Forms
- Court History
- 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

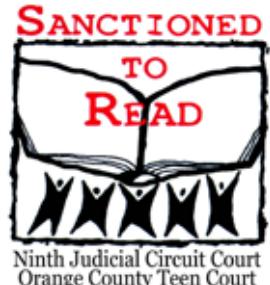
NinthCircuit.org received millions of hits each year with over 100,000 daily inquiries. The Court's website is developed and maintained by the staff of the Ninth Judicial Circuit. Please visit the site at www.NinthCircuit.org.

Ninth In a Nutshell from the JAs -- The judicial assistants of the Ninth Circuit use this program to forge an information link between local law offices and the judiciary. Judicial assistants provide a 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 in the attorney's section under "information," then "court forms." For more information, call **407-836-2350**.



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 the 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 39,777 hours. In 2010-2011, volunteers in Orange County logged more than 3,260 hours, which represented a savings of more than \$48,000.00. In that same time period, information booth volunteers in Osceola County logged 415 hours, which represented a savings of more than \$6,000 last year. For more information, call **407-836-0472**.

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. Students are tutored in various skills, including: oral (receptive) vocabulary, phonics, written vocabulary, written comprehension, oral reading, and language skills. The program, by design, not only improves reading skills required for language arts classes, but also helps students in other academic 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. In Orange County, a total of 215 students have successfully completed the reading program. In 2010 alone, the average grade level increase in comprehension and vocabulary was 1.98, and in oral/receptive vocabulary, the average age level increase was 1.05 years. There was also a grade level increase of 2.32 in written language skills, such as grammar. In Osceola, 32 students benefited from this program, which commenced in 2009 thanks to a BYRNE/JAG Grant. It is also supervised under the Alternative Sanctions Program. For more information on the Osceola Program, call **407-742-2518** and in Orange County, call **407-836-9313**.



Ninth Judicial Circuit Court
Orange County Teen Court



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

Programs / Services

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 **407-836-0403**.

Staff Attorney Department -- Staff attorneys provide integral support to the judiciary by researching complex legal questions on

 **Staff Attorneys** 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 2010, the staff attorneys researched and prepared memoranda/proposed orders in 250 appellate cases, 850 post conviction matters and countless other cases in all areas of the law.

Technology Services -- The Department of Technology Services provides comprehensive computer support for the court's 62 judges, 62 judicial assistants and 207 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
- Internet maintenance and support
- Public wireless Internet access
- Systems administration
- Training
- Video conference
- Web page development, maintenance and support

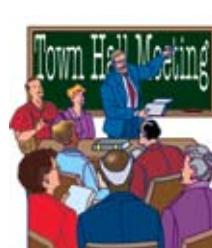
To reach Technology Services, please call **407-836-6010** for Orange County and/or **407-742-2530** for Osceola County.

Teen Court -- Teen Court is a diversionary program for first-time juvenile offenders where participants 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, acting as prosecutors, defense attorneys, deputies, clerks 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, a jail tour, drug testing, a curfew, service on a Teen Court jury, restitution, a report or verbal or written apologies to victims or parents. A defendant charged with retail theft must also complete the YES program, a shoplifting home study kit and shoplifting class. 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 Orange and Osceola counties offer a free, 40-hour reading improvement course for youth called Sanctioned to Read. We make referrals to impulse control and anger management classes, as well as driving classes offered by the National Safety Council. The Orange County program handled 1,395 criminal cases in 2008-2009 and has 265 teen volunteers. The Osceola County Program handled 519 criminal cases in 2009-2010, and its adult/teen volunteers donated a total of 5,094 hours of community 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. Volunteers in Osceola County qualify for scholarships provided by the Education Foundation. For Orange County, call 407-836-9517 or send an e-mail to ctaddm1@ocnjcc.org. In Osceola County, call **407-742-2465** or send an email to ctadam1@ocnjcc.org.

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**. For additional information regarding tours of the Osceola County Courthouse, please call **407-742-2418**.



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. These events not only offer citizens an opportunity to meet the judges and learn about our judicial system, they also serve as a forum for judges to better understand the needs of the community and the perceptions people have of the courts.

Programs / Services

Town hall agendas usually 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 **407-836-0403**.

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. In 2010, the general magistrate handled 705 truancy cases. An additional program designed to focus on schools in our community which have the highest truancy rates is held on Thursday evening beginning at 5:00 p.m., and is presided over by a special magistrate. This is referred to as Community-Based Truancy Court (CBTC). CBTC handled 214 new cases in 2010. Case management for both Truancy Courts 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 cases can be refereed to a Judge under certain circumstances. For information on Truancy Courts, call Juvenile Court Administration at **407-836-7590** press “2” then press “4”.



Twitter – Social media’s growing popularity and widespread acceptance prompted the Ninth Judicial Circuit to expand its public information services to include the use of Twitter. The endeavor has been a success and by mid-2011 had over 1,000 followers.

The Court routinely sends out tweets on recent news events, including press releases, information on high-profile cases, court closings, and judicial appointments. Log on to Twitter.com and follow “NinthCircuitFL” if you would like to receive up-to-date tweets.

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 assigned two judges to handle all family and juvenile cases on an alternating week basis using a mirror image procedure. The goal is to have all companion cases linked together and assigned to one judge so that the presiding judge can have a complete overview of all the cases pertaining to an entire family. The UFC also has case managers who monitor court orders and the parties’ compliance. Additionally, case managers research approximately 9,845 cases per year and reassign/notify the presiding judge of any and all open

cases involving the parties. The case managers also provide litigants with information about community resources available to them. For more information, call **407-742-2531**.

Volunteer Program -- The Ninth Judicial Circuit's Volunteer Program is committed to promoting community awareness of and involvement in the judicial system. The Court acknowledges the value of community support and its role in an effective and fair judicial system. Court volunteers save taxpayers thousands of dollars each year through their service. Court volunteers work in the information booths at the courthouses, as well as various departments in Orange and Osceola counties. Volunteers may also assist with numerous court programs, such as Teen Court, the Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program and mediation programs. To volunteer in Orange County call **407-836-2052** and in Osceola County call **407-742-2418**.



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NinthCircuit.org

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