

17th Judicial Circuit State of the Circuit

January 19, 2018

A CIRCUIT IN TRANSITION

- ▶ New judges/new judges 17 Circuit and 13 County less than 3 years on the bench with minimum of 9 new judges beginning in 2019
- ▶ Opened and Retirement of Judges Weinstein, Backman, Holmes, Speiser and Gates from the Circuit Court; Retirement of Judges Fishman and Zeller from the County Court
- ▶ Transitioned into new West Tower
- ▶ Updated and Revised Administrative Orders, new orders on handling high risk drugs in evidence; expert witness fees; status quo order in newly filed family cases; sexual harassment policy regarding state employees serving in the 17th; updated orders dealing with media cases and electronic communications in the courtrooms and an updated security AO for all courthouses;
- ▶ Pending Approval by the Florida Supreme Court on Amended Local Rule 10 (a)
- ▶ Focus on Jail Population Issues
- ▶ Organized and held Drivers License clinic to help reinstate suspend drivers
- ▶ Pro se Divorce Night in November 400+ couples from 4-7pm
- ▶ Assigned an additional judge to the Dependency Division
- ▶ Expanded use of senior judges to help with Domestic Violence now two full time DV judges
- ▶ Expanded use of senior judges to help with foreclosure cases
- ▶ Dependency waiting area opened for children in the dependency court
- ▶ Full building evacuation in December to determine sufficiency of alarm systems etc in West Bldg

17TH IN THE NEWS

- ▶ Judge Barner spoke at Broward College commencement ceremonies; Judge Izquierdo traveled to an Indian Reservation to hold court for children in the dependency division; Judge Bristol was awarded the William Gladstone award for her lifetime work in the dependency courts; Judge Diaz organized and championed a drivers license clinic to help suspended drivers reinstate their license and was awarded the Harvey Ford award, the highest recognition bestowed by the conference of County Court Judges; Judges Haimes and Singhal were nominated for Federal District Court appointments; investiture held for judges Coleman, Fahnstock, and Gamm; Judge Bristol and the family judges held pro se night for some 400 couples divorcing or name changes after hours; Judge Bowman was recognized for his lifetime work on National Adoption day by Governor Scott; Judge Speiser was recognized by the Broward Crime Commission for a lifetime achievement award for his work in mental health and probate; Judge Robinson was recognized for distinguished service from the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency; Judge Schiff wrote a brilliant book on the Law and Baseball which has been recognized as a authoritative text on the subject by multiple law reviews.

2018 GOALS

- Consideration of implementing a Drive Legal Broward program as an alternative to permit suspended drivers an opportunity to become legal through community service in lieu of fines, needs funding
- Implementation of Alternative Sentencing in VOP felony and misdemeanor cases
- Implementation of Electronic Agreed and Ex Parte Orders in Probate cases
- Implementation of Electronic Dispositions in Criminal cases
- Elimination of old warrants dating back to the 70's and 80's
- Overhaul of an LOP program for more effective case management by judges
- Addition of new Judge to the Family Division in the fall
- Program recognizing Black lawyers and judges during Black History week
- New Full Time First Appearance Judge at First Appearance court with emphasis on use of risk assessment tools and pre trial release for low level offenders in lieu of cash bonds