

County Court Courier

Volume 6, Number 2 . Spring 2001

No Rest for This Senior Judge

By Charles Samaha

Reprinted courtesy of the
St. Petersburg Bar Association

This year, the Honorable William H. Seaver celebrates his 51st year as a member of our profession, and 36th as a judge.

Judge Seaver was born in Orlando on March 4, 1923. As a child he lived in the Orlando and Daytona Beach areas, attending junior high in Daytona Beach and graduating from Orlando High School in 1941. He received his draft notice on his 20th birthday and joined the Army Airforce. He was stationed at the Black Stone Hotel in Miami Beach for basic training, and for six weeks he served as the eyes and ears of the FBI, reporting on any suspicious activity on land and water.

After basic training, he was bounced from Virginia Polytechnic Institute for college testing, to the replacement center in New York, and to Westover Field in Massachusetts, where he worked as a draftsman. Bill returned to New York to the Suffolk County Air Force Base and was placed as a mechanic even though he had no experience or training in that field. He eventually worked his way up to crew chief, then aircraft inspector. Bill also worked as an armorer, synchronizing and bore-sighting the machine guns on the P-47 aircraft so the pro-

pellor would not be disabled. Even though Bill was never shipped overseas, he received a combat ribbon since the P-47s destroyed German submarines off the N.Y. coast.

Bill was discharged on February 28, 1946; however, he stayed in the Reserves. He graduated from the University of Florida School of Law on September 4, 1950, and opened his own practice in Dade City the following February. He became the acting County Solicitor for the Court of Record, handling cases up to \$10,000, and all crimes, except capital cases.

In 1958, Bill was listed on the write-in ballot for Judge of the County Judges Court but lost to Judge Brewton. Six years later, he ran against Judges Brewton and Hayward and won by 248 votes. He was invested on January 5, 1965. As judge of the County Judges Court he was also Judge of the Juvenile Court and County Court. He ran unopposed every election thereafter and retired 26 years later in 1991. Prior to the Article V revision, he sat on the County Judge's Court, where he signed drivers' and fishing licenses, handled mental health cases, and probate/guardianship issues.

On July 1, 1991, he became a senior judge. Judge Seaver presides over small claims pre-trials in Pasco County, as well as handling county and circuit cases in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, Citrus, and



*Judge William H. Seaver
Chair, Senior Judges Committee*

Marion Counties. Judge Seaver is a valuable member of our conference serving as chair of the Senior Judges Committee.

In addition to his senior judge work, he has sat as an arbitrator. He is a certified mediator and handles mediations for county and circuit court civil cases, as well as family law issues.

Judge Seaver met his wife, Agota "Agi" E. Seaver, 15 years ago at an Optimist Club function. Judge Seaver's only child, Patrick E. Seaver is in the transportation business. The Judge enjoys his work and is dedicated to his profession. He also enjoys dancing, scuba diving, hunting, fishing, air-boating, hypnotism and duplicate bridge. You can reach Judge Seaver at (727) 464-4646 office, or (727) 863-0690 home.

Judge, we thank you for all your time and devotion to the law. ■

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Letter from the Editor



Judge Peggy Gehl
Editor, County Court Courier

With this issue I'm proud to unveil a newly re-designed Courier. The new look comes from Mediawise, inc. a creative services agency based in Tallahassee.

Besides spotlighting the impressive career of Judge William H. Seaver, in this issue I've chosen to profile many of our new judges. For those who were not featured, and there are many, please send me your resumes and a photo for publication in future Couriers. It is important for all of us to welcome our new judges into the Conference and to encourage them to be active participants. As our conference attendance wanes, we all must endeavor to keep it vibrant by opening up our committees and board positions to new judges.

Please continue to send your news to me directly, to your circuit representative or to your district vice-presidents for submission. Your Courier is an important publication to memorialize the history and achievements of your judgeships.

Peggy Gehl
Editor ■

In the next issue of the Courier...

A Closer Look at Florida's Non-Lawyer Judges

Committee Reports

Civil Rules Committee

By Judge Ronald A. Legendre, Chair

1. The committee recommended that the form for the Summons contained in the Rules of Civil Procedure be amended to provide space for the clerk's address. The existing form advises the defendant to send a response to the clerk and should contain the address. This is especially important in counties or circuits that have satellite courthouses.

2. The committee discussed a 9th Circuit Court appellate opinion rendered by a three-judge panel, dealing with the award of attorney fees to an insurer as a result of an Offer of Judgement. The case, JACOBY vs. STATE FARM, # CVA 199-44, dated 12/11/00.

3. The new interest rate on final judgements is 11% per year.

4. The committee discussed invoking the Rules of Civil Procedure in cases filed under the Small Claims Rules, where one party was pro se. It was suggested to limit the use of requests for admissions, motion for summary judgement, and use of sanctions against the pro se party.

5. The committee discussed the new standard jury instruction 1.8 "Note-taking by jurors" and a proposed jury instruction dealing with jurors asking questions of witnesses.

6. A report was made on the work of The Florida Bar Civil Rules Committee. There was discussion on the judgement debtor financial information form and the new rule requiring the prevailing party to file for attorney's fee within 30 days.

Criminal Rules Committee

By Judge Olin Shinholser, Chair

The criminal rules committee met and

discussed several of the same issues considered in the Florida Bar Criminal Rules Committee's January meeting, including the new proposed rule for DNA testing, pretrial release, motions to suppress, joint representation and orders of no imprisonment. An extensive, spirited discussion was held regarding the proposed rule on orders of no imprisonment. Any judge interested in commenting as to the specific language of the proposed rule should contact either Judge Kevin Emas of Dade County or Judge Shinholser of Highland County.

Sentencing Committee

By Judge A.L. "Buck" Curtin, Chair

The sentencing committee covered a number of items previously addressed, as well as one new issue - Crime Stopper Court Costs.

As chairperson, I passed out the new Civil restitution Lien Order form now being used in Alachua County for cost of incarceration.

Also distributed was the Impoundment/Immobilization form reflecting the legislative changes from the last session. Second and subsequent convictions require the impoundment/immobilization of **all** vehicles owned by the defendant. When considering the waiver of this requirement, the Court must find that no other private or public means of transportation is available.

The committee acknowledged that community service hours can be imposed in lieu of mandatory costs. The committee knew of no authority for some Courts waiving mandatory costs without ordering community service.

The one new topic covered was the imposition of the \$20.00 Crime Stopper Court costs. This cost can only be imposed when the defendant is **adjudicated and fined**. A withhold of adjudication prevents imposition of

the cost, although some Courts are not aware of this limitation. Proposed changes to the statute, which would have changed the wording from "fine" to "penalty," did not pass the last legislative session.

The only other matter addressed was future topics for the Education Committee to consider. Imposition of court costs was the only topic suggested. It is a considerable challenge to keep up with the legislative changes regarding the mandatory /discretionary costs to be considered at sentencing. The Committee believes that yearly updates at Conference are needed.

No matters were voted on for consideration by the board.

Conference Forms Legislative Resource Committee

By Judge Beth Bloom

As part of our ongoing efforts to assist the legislature in drafting and revising bills, the Conference seeks all judges who have an interest in serving on the Legislative Resource Committee.

The Committee's goal is to be a ready resource to our legislators on needed legislation. Each member's responsibility would be to provide a statement of "judicial impact" - how the intended legislation would impact the judiciary as a whole. In addition, a committee member may be asked to meet with a particular legislator, answer questions on the phone or by e-mail, and appear for testimony before a particular legislative committee.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please forward your name, phone numbers, e-mail address and the specific area of law that you have an expertise in to Judge Bloom at Room 609, 1351 NW 12th St., Miami, FL 33125; or e-mail her at bbloom@jud11.flcourts.org. ■

Broward County

In Marathon Recount, Judge Set Pace

By Dexter Filkins and Lynette Holloway

Reprinted from the New York Times, November 27, 2000

FORT LAUDERDALE, NOVEMBER 26 – In the one Florida county where things seemed to go right for Vice President Al Gore, nearly every important decision seemed to fall to one man.

Robert W. Lee, a county judge and the chairman of Broward County's canvassing board, presided over a marathon counting session that ultimately found 567 more votes for the vice president than it did for Gov. George W. Bush. Democratic lawyers often cheered at the votes, and Republicans sometimes snickered, but when it was over, the fiercely independent judge merely shrugged.

"It wasn't that difficult intellectually," Judge Lee said at a 1 a.m. press conference after a 15-hour day of vote counting. "There were people who said that this was a political process. I'm not disturbed by that."

For the past 12 days, Judge Lee often found himself caught between his partisan colleagues on the right and the left. Time and again, one board member, Suzanne N. Gunzburger, a Democratic county commissioner, saw a Gore vote where County Judge Robert Rosenberg, a Republican, saw none.

And time after time, Judge Lee, a Democrat, cast the deciding vote – often in Gore's favor.

But Judge Lee said partisan politics had little to do with how he voted. As he pored over hundreds of disputed ballots, Judge Lee said that one of the biggest questions of the election – what a "dimple" on the ballot really meant – was fairly simple.

"One ballot by itself doesn't tell you very much," Judge Lee said. "But when you look at 500 or 1,000 of

them, you notice obvious things. I decided I would look at the physical appearance of the ballot. I looked for patterns. I thought those things were relevant."

Judge Lee's interpretation of the ballots became the gold standard for the Democrats, who fought vainly to force two other counties – Palm Beach and Miami-Dade – to count the same way.



Broward County Judge Robert W. Lee, 2000 Canvassing Chair

As Democratic lawyers prepare to formally contest the election in Florida, they say they may hold Broward County up as the model for how ballots ought to be counted.

"We think they did it right in Broward," said Charles Lichtman, a Democratic lawyer. "It wasn't so much that Lee or anyone else was partisan. We think they followed the law."

The Republicans who watched Judge Lee and the Broward County Canvassing board chip away at Mr. Bush's lead said the judge's partisan sympathies were clear.

"Judge Lee did a great job of

appearing fair and evenhanded for the cameras, but some of his rulings on these disputed suggested otherwise," said Terry Holt, a spokesman for the Republicans.

With a Florida Supreme Court deadline looming, Judge Lee goaded his colleagues to move quickly through the hand counting. He tossed unruly lawyers out of his courtroom, forced board members to come in on Thanksgiving Day, and made the board continue counting even in the face of an unfavorable ruling from Florida's secretary of state.

To the delight of spectators in the courtroom, Judge Lee told some prominent politicians to stop talking so much.

"I've been on the canvassing board for several years, and I've heard so many speeches from so many of you that I don't care to hear any more from you guys," he pointedly told Gov. Marc Racicot of Montana.

Then he paused and gave a small smile.

"With all due respect."

For all the hectoring and browbeating, Broward County's canvassing board finished its job while its counterpart in Palm Beach County ran out of time.

"I think he has a good even way about him, and was able to handle all the adversity," said Norm Ostrau, deputy county attorney in Broward, referring to Judge Lee. "I would have blown up. I don't have that temperament." ■

Editor's Note: Judge Lee changed his voter registration to Independent last month.

Dade County

Miami-Dade Launches Two Innovative Collection Initiatives

In an effort to enhance the collection of fines, fees and costs imposed by the court, the County Court Criminal Division of the 11th Judicial Circuit will launch two collection initiatives. Judge Sam Slom, the Administrative Judge of the Criminal Division of the County Court, is coordinating these collection initiatives.

1. Pilot Staff-based Collection Unit:

Effective March 5, 2001, the County Court Criminal Division will begin a six-month pilot Staff-based Collection Unit. The pilot will include one of the eight County Court Criminal Divisions.

During the pilot phase, the judge, upon sentencing, will not grant any stays on the payment of fines, fees and costs assessed. The defendant will be given the choice of either paying the assessed costs within 24 hours or elect to be placed on a monthly payment plan. A collection investigator assigned to the Staff-based Collection Unit will interview the defendant immediately after their costs are imposed. Defendants requesting payment plans of six months or less will be assessed a \$25 application fee. Plans over six months and extending to twelve months will be assessed an application fee of \$50. Every extension thereafter will include an additional \$25 fee. Midway through the pilot we expect to include a Felony Criminal Division.

In providing this service, we expect to enhance revenues because defendants will be placed on payment plans as soon as they are sentenced and the monthly payments will be set at reasonable amounts that the defendants have indicated they can afford.

Defendants will receive a billing statement each month reminding them of their financial obligation and the payment that is due. The application fees will offset the operational cost of this pilot program.

2. Judicial Enforcement Section (JES):

In January 1999, Chief Judge Joseph Farina, by Administrative Order, established a Judicial Enforcement Section (collection court) and placed it under the supervision of the Administrative Judge. Closed criminal traffic, misdemeanor and felony cases in which court-imposed financial obligations have not been met are assigned to JES.

Currently, JES hearings are conducted twice weekly with a judge presiding. Effective May 2001, JES will expand its operation to five days a week with a Special Master presiding over the hearings. Judges will assist with certain court activities such as the issuance of arrest warrants when defendants fail to appear. It is anticipated that the expansion of the JES to a full time court will result in greater collection success. ■

Miami-Dade County Court Domestic Violence Seminar

By Judge Mark King Leban

The Domestic Violence Division of the Miami-Dade County Court presented a seminar on domestic violence to the Miami Chapter of the Criminal Defense Attorneys. This is a continuing education program presented to various legal organizations throughout the community.

Past presentations were to the Family Law section of the Miami-Dade County Bar Association, the Matrimonial Section of the Florida Bar, and the Miami Beach and Coral Gables Bar Associations.

Participating in these seminars are Miami-Dade County Judges Amy Karan, Mark King Leban, Deborah White-Labora, Bertilo Soto, Carroll Kelly, Michael Samuels, and Dava Tunis. ■

Judge McDermott Retires

After 24 years of service to the citizens of Volusia County as a County Court Judge in Daytona Beach, Judge Michael McDermott has retired.

We look forward to Judge McDermott's service as a Senior Judge.

Contact Judge McDermott at P.O. Box 2319, Deland, Florida, 32721.

Good luck, Judge McDermott! ■

Judge Gehl Appointed to the JQC

Broward County Judge Peggy Gehl was appointed to the statewide 15-member Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC), a constitutionally created commission that investigates complaints filed against Florida judges and recommends discipline to the Florida Supreme Court.

County Judge Jeff Colbath, President of the Conference of County Court Judges, appointed Judge Gehl to replace defeated County Judge Harvey Goldstein of Dade County. She is the first woman to represent the County Court Conference on the JQC, and only one of three women currently serving.

Judge Gehl will be seeking re-election to her seat as the incumbent at the Summer Business Meeting in Naples this July.

Judge Gehl's experience with grievance procedures is highlighted by her three years of service on a Florida Bar Grievance Committee, which she chaired. She was also chair of a Guardian ad Litem Grievance Committee, which heard complaints filed by disgruntled parents and attorneys.

"It is time the County Judge's Conference had a strong and persuasive voice from the judges' viewpoint," Judge Gehl said. "The public certainly needs protection from the abuse of judicial power, but the judiciary needs protection from petty and vindictive parties and attorneys who use JQC as a threat.

Judges must be able to rule independently and without fear of punishment from those who are angry or biased against the judge" she added.

The JQC is composed of five Governor's appointments who are not judges or lawyers, four Florida Bar appointments, and six judges – two each from the County, Circuit, and

District Courts of Appeal. Judge Gehl is one of the two county judges serving on the Commission, along with County Judge Thomas Freeman of Pinellas County in Clearwater.

Article V, Section 12 of the Florida Constitution, which created the predecessor to the present JQC, was created by constitutional revision in 1972. Its mission has been described as protecting the public from abuse of judicial power as well as re-directing misguided judges back to ethically correct paths.

A 1996 constitutional amendment separated the members of the JQC into two panels – one that investigates complaints and one that adjudicates complaints – receives and hears formal charges from the investigative panel and recommends removal or appropriate discipline to the Florida Supreme Court. The chief concern was whether the same Commissioners who investigate a complaint would be able to remain neutral during the adjudicative process.

Initially, Judge Gehl will serve as a member of the hearing panel.

"Judge Gehl is one of the most fair-minded of all the judges who work within the Conference leadership," said Palm Beach County Judge Krista Marx. "Her appointment is a huge step forward in advancing the interests of the Conference. She will truly be a voice for us as our representative."

A graduate of Ft. Lauderdale High School in 1965, Judge Gehl obtained a bachelor of science degree in journalism from the University of Florida in 1969. She wrote for the Fort Lauderdale News (now Sun-Sentinel) for a year before serving three years as a legislative aide to House Republicans Joel Gustafson and Eugene Tubbs. She earned her Juris Doctor degree in 1976 from the University of Denver, where,



Broward County Judge Peggy Gehl appointed to Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC).

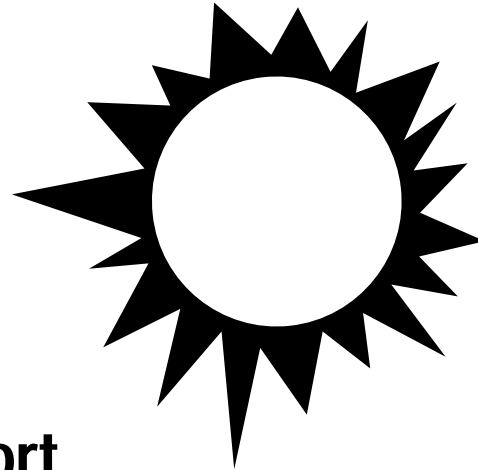
because of scholastic excellence, she was invited to write for the Denver Law Journal.

That same year, Judge Gehl became the first female attorney hired by Broward's oldest institutional firm of Fleming, O'Bryan & Fleming to assist chief litigation partner Rex Conrad in preparing his complex litigation cases. She followed her litigation interest with two additional firms – Gustafson, Stephens, Ferris & Forman (now Holland & Knight), and Shailer, Purdy & Jolly, before being appointed as a General Master in Family Law, Probate & Guardianship in 1989.

Governor Lawton Chiles appointed Judge Gehl to her present county judgeship in 1995, where she sits in a criminal division. She has since been re-elected unopposed twice, most recently in September 2000 to a six-year term. She presently serves on the Board of the Conference of County Court Judges, and on the Conference Executive Board as Editor of the Conference newspaper, The County Court Courier. ■

Summer & Fall 2001 Conferences

Summer 2001



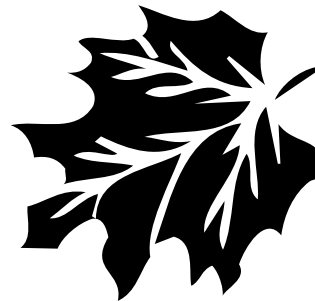
July 11-13, 2001

The Registry Resort

475 Seagate Drive

Naples, Florida 34103

Fall 2001



October 9-12, 2001

Adams Mark Hotel

220 East Bay Street

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Meet Florida's New Judges

ORANGE COUNTY Antoinette Plogstedt

Judge Plogstedt graduated cum laude from the University of Tampa. She re-ceived her Juris Doctoris from the University of Florida. Upon graduating from the University of Florida, she became an Assistant State Attorney. For the past nine years she has been in private practice and since 1995 she has had her own practice.

"Judge Plogstedt brings to the bench her experience as a prosecutor and in general practice with her own law firm, said Chief Judge Ted Coleman. "This well rounded background makes her a welcome addition to the bench."

Married, and the mother of four children under the age of five, Judge Plogstedt says when she has spare time she enjoys reading biographies and traveling.

SANTA ROSA COUNTY Ronald V. Swanson

Ronald V. Swanson has been appointed County Court Judge for Santa Rosa County by Governor Jeb Bush.



Swanson, a former Assistant State Attorney for Santa Rosa County, previously served as a Special Prosecutor for the First Judicial Circuit. He holds a

Bachelor's Degree in Education from Florida State University, a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Florida College of Law, and an L.L.M. with highest honors from the National Law Center, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Judge Swanson, a retired Navy Captain, served 20 years on active duty in the United States Navy. While in the Navy, Judge Swanson participated in a 1988 investigation in the Persian Gulf, service in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with ships of the Atlantic fleet in the North Atlantic, and on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations in the Pentagon, Washington D.C.

A native Floridian, Judge Swanson makes his home in Gulf Breeze with his wife of 30 years, Diane, a schoolteacher for the visually impaired. They have one daughter, Erika, who lives in New Orleans with her husband and son.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY Mary Jo Francis

A native of Lakewood Ohio, Judge Francis moved to South Florida to attend the University of Miami undergraduate and law schools.



She served as a staff attorney for the Legal Services of Greater Miami, and later headed its consumer division. She has continued her close association with

Legal Services as a member of its Board of Directors from 1985 to 1990 and again from 1997 to 1999.

For two years, as an associate in private practice, she handled a variety of civil cases and issues for classroom teachers.

Judge Francis joined the Public Defenders office in 1981, and during her time there she has had extensive experience as a trial attorney and a trainer of young attorneys. She has served as a member of the Florida Bar's Traffic Rules Committee, and its Juvenile Rules Committee.

Active in community service, Judge Francis is vice president of the Board of Directors of the Hope Center for the developmentally disabled. She was an active participant in the Coalition for a Free South Africa, served on the Miami-Dade County School Board's Security Task Force, and was a member of the Women's Intergroup Network of the American Jewish Committee.

Judge Francis was a member of the Miami-Dade FAWL Board of Directors from 1995 to 1999 and served as its Secretary and Vice-President. For several years, she also was the FAWL member on the Board of Directors of the Dade County Bar Association.

Judge Francis is also a member of the Board of the Biscayne Bay Kiwanis Club, where she participates in its reading program for young people. She is a Big Sister to a fourth grade student and sits on the advisory committee for the Dade County Chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Are you a new judge?

Send in your resume and photo to the Editor, Judge Gehl, for future issues of the Courier.

Meet Florida's New Judges

Martin Shapiro

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Judge Martin Shapiro attended Dade County public schools and received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Florida.



Judge Shapiro practiced law with Greenberg Traurig, Smith and Mandler, Ruden, McClosky and Taylor, Brion. For the past ten years he has been a sole practitioner. He is an AV rated attorney in Martindale-Hubbell.

Judge Shapiro served as Miami Beach City Commissioner from 1989 to 1999, and Councilman and Mayor of Bay Harbor Islands from 1979 to 1989. He is single with one child.

Luise Krieger Martin

A resident of Miami-Dade County for 30 years, Judge Krieger Martin is a graduate of the University of Florida and the University of Miami School of Law. Judge Krieger Martin practiced law in South Florida for 14 years prior to her election last September.



Judge Krieger Martin began her practice as an associate at the Law Office of Albert J. Krieger, P.A., a firm specializing in complex federal litigation. She left her position in that firm to devote her career to public service, and served as a trial lawyer in the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office from 1987-2000.

Her most recent assignment was to the Major Crimes Division, where she handled a caseload that consisted exclusively of homicides. She also served as the supervisor of seven felony trial attorneys. She had previously been assigned to the Felony Division, Juvenile Court and County Court.

Judge Krieger Martin also trained advancing felony attorneys, responsible for the supervision of less experienced attorneys as they moved from County Court or the Juvenile Division into the Felony Division.

Judge Krieger Martin and her husband, David, a Coral Gables firefighter and paramedic, have two sons.

Ana Maria Pando

A native of Miami-Dade County, Judge Pando graduated cum laude from Barry University and received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Miami School of Law.



Judge Pando began her career as a Specially Appointed Public Defender. In 1991, she joined the Miami City Attorney's Office and was assigned to the Miami Police Department as Police Legal Advisor, handling all legal issues including litigation.

In 1999, Judge Pando transferred to the Law Department to handle code enforcement and related cases involving unsafe structures.

Judge Pando served as board counsel to the Miami Commission on the Status of Women.

CALHOUN COUNTY

Kevin Grover

Kevin Grover was born in Blountstown, Florida and grew up in nearby Bristol. He graduated in 1993 from Troy State University with a Bachelor of



Science degree in Psychology and from the University of Memphis School of Law in 1997 with a J.D. degree.

Kevin practiced law as an Assistant Public Defender from January of 1998 until he resigned to seek office in the summer of 2000. His primary duties were representing clients in Bay County's misdemeanor divisions.

Kevin was elected as the Calhoun County Judge on September 5, 2000 and was invested on January 2, 2001.

He is active with the Blountstown Rotary Club and the Blountstown First Baptist Church. Kevin's wife, Shalene, is also a member of The Florida Bar and practices in the 14th Judicial Circuit. They reside in Altha. ■

County Court Courier



Next Courier Deadline ►

May 15, 2001

County Judges' Winter Conference

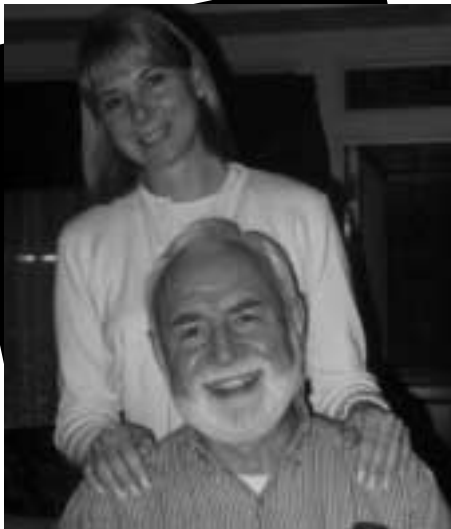
January 2001 •••••



Conference President Jeff Colbath (Palm Beach County) and Conference Secretary Krista Marx (Palm Beach County).



Judges and their families enjoyed visiting the Kennedy Space Center.



Judge Jerry Pollack (Broward County) and his wife, Jeanne.

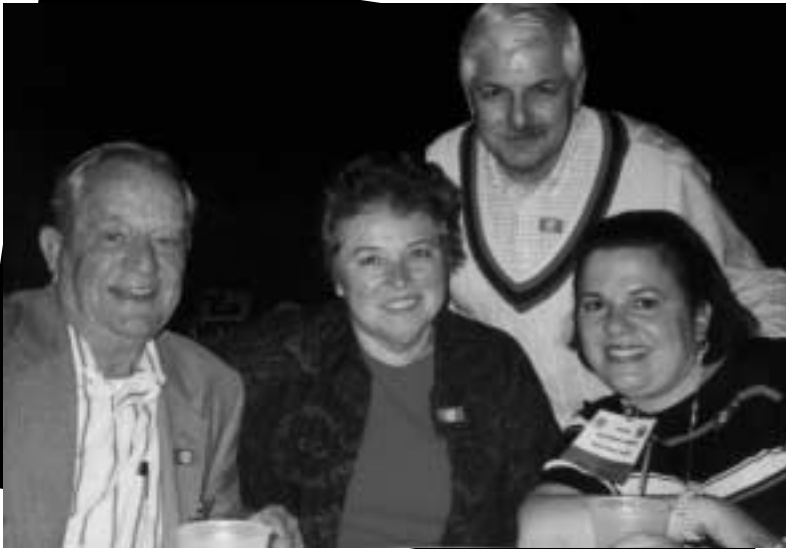


L to R, Judge Phyllis Kotey (Alachua County); Judge Paul Moyle (Palm Beach County); Judge Sheree Cunningham (Palm Beach County); Judge Cheryl Thomas (Hillsborough County); and Judge Jeff Colbath (Palm Beach County.)

L to R, Palm Beach County Judge Peter Evans and Dade County Judges Beth Bloom (Conference President-Elect); Sam Slom, Martin Shapiro and Shelly Schwartz.



January 2001 •••••



▲
L to R, Sr. Judge William J. Piquette (Dade County); Marilyn Piquette; Judge Carmine Bravo (Seminole County); and Judge Ana Maria Pando (Dade County).



▲
Clay County Judge Tom McAnnally and wife Bruce.



▲
L to R, Broward County Judges Sharon Zeller, Jane Fishman and Louis Schiff.



▲
L to R, Palm Beach County Judge Krista Marx, Conference Secretary; Jerry Gardner, legislative consultant; Ruth Becker-Painter, circuit representative; and Don Lamonica, legislative consultant.



▲
Brevard County Judges William T. McCluan and Ken Friedland.

Letters to the Courier:

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness in recent months.

The prayers, calls and other expressions of support from my friends and colleagues have been a great blessing. I truly appreciate your concern, and look forward to the day when I can thank you in person.

Sincerely,
Ken Palmer
State Courts Administrator ■

Congratulations, Judge Bateman

Governor Jeb Bush has appointed County Judge Thomas H. Bateman III to the 2nd Judicial Circuit Court, which serves Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla counties. Judge Bateman fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Charles D. McClure.

“Thomas’ broad range of expertise in the law makes him an excellent choice for this position,” Governor Bush said. “His nearly thirty years as a law enforcement officer, lawyer and judge will bring important contributions to the bench.”

Judge Bateman, age 49, of Tallahassee, served as a Leon County

Court Judge since 1990. Prior to his judicial service, he held the post of General Counsel for the Florida Department of Transportation. He currently presides over the Circuit Court Family Law Division, and has served on numerous committees of the Florida Supreme Court, the Florida Conference of County Court Judges and The Florida Bar.

Judge Bateman received his undergraduate degree from Nova University in 1977 and his Juris Doctorate degree from George Mason University School of Law in 1981.

We will miss you, Judge Bateman! ■

Board Minutes

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting at the Winter Conference 2001, can be obtained by calling or writing Judge Gehl. ■

Voters Reject Merit Selection

Florida citizens in all 67 counties rejected the option of selecting trial judges through a merit selection/retention process and voted to maintain a nonpartisan election system for filling circuit and county judgeships. ■

Address changes should be submitted in writing to Judge Gehl at the below address or by fax at (954) 831-8546.



COUNTY COURT COURIER
201 SE 6th Street, Room #335
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301