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Revision 7 Update: Trial Court Budget Commission Conducts First Meeting

by **John D. Dew**,
Chief of Trial Court Funding
Policy Section

The Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) held its first meeting on December 11 and 12 in Tallahassee. Chief Justice Charles Wells opened the meeting by saying, "I want to say that this Commission is a historical Commission, one which will make decisions that will impact and mold our trial court system and determine how successful it will be for generations to come. While Revision 7 to the Florida Constitution changes how the trial courts will be funded, it will be dependent, in a large part, on the Commission as to how well the trial court system as we know it today continues."

With that, the TCBC kicked off its inaugural meeting. During the two day session, members were provided an orientation on the previous work of the Article V Funding Steering Committee, given an overview of the legislative process and timetable, and reviewed state courts system's budget issues for Fiscal Year 2001/2002. Additionally, the Commission addressed how best to examine both short term and long term policy issues related to implementing Revision 7. The Commission voted to create five subcommittees, chaired by members of the TCBC, to make recommendations to the full Commission on various policy issues. (See page 2 for a listing of the subcommittees, their purpose, and the chair.)

The TCBC held its **second meeting** on January 22, 23, and 24. During this meeting the Commission heard reports from several of its subcommittees, was presented with the results of the Office of State Courts Administrator's (OSCA) most recent survey of county expenditures for the trial courts, discussed ways to potentially handle proposed budget reductions in the trial court budget due to a state revenue

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Revision 7 *from page 1*

Funding Methodology Subcommittee-

Charged with recommending the basis for funding for all resources, and specifically the issue of determining the basis of funding for the court's essential elements, and determining accountability standards. Chaired by Carol Lee Ortman, Court Administrator of the 17th judicial circuit.

Local Requirements/Obligations/Standards Subcommittee-

Charged with defining local county requirements and obligations and defining standards regarding facilities, security, and communication services. Chaired by Judge Don Briggs from the 5th judicial circuit.

Non-Judicial Due Process Subcommittee-

Charged with examining conflict counsel as well as other non-judicial due process costs and making recommendations on how to assure these expenses are adequately funded by the state and developing a process of accountability. Chaired by Judge Belvin Perry, Jr. from the 9th judicial circuit.

Personnel Subcommittee-

Charged with looking at all personnel transition issues if the legislature determines that county staff currently working in the trial courts would become state employees. Chaired by Mark VanBever, Court Administrator of the 18th judicial circuit.

Revenue and Revenue Enhancements Subcommittee-

Charged with examining current fines, fees, and court costs. Further, charged with examining current assessment and enforcement efforts of the courts for both mandatory and discretionary fines, fees, and court costs. Chaired by Chief Judge Joseph P. Farina of the 11th judicial circuit.

shortfall, discussed which trial court personnel and programs should be defined as "essential elements," and discussed when the trial courts should seek funding from the Legislature for implementation of Revision 7.

TCBC Recommends Delay in Funding

Potentially, the most important decision coming out of the January 2001 meeting was to not make funding for the Revision 7 transition a priority for this legislative session. Previously, the Article V Funding Steering Committee had voted to seek funding in the 2001 session for "phase 1" implementation of Revision 7. The Committee earlier requested that \$109 million dollars be placed in the Governor's legislative budget request document to fund "essential elements" of the state courts system. However, after OSCA staff conducted several field audits of the survey conducted to gather trial court expenditures by counties, it was decided additional work is needed to assure the data was both reliable and auditable. It is expected that the legislature will have staff from the state Auditor General's Office conduct audits of these surveys. Also, postponing the request for funding this session further allows the TCBC to develop a budget request which will help ensure more balanced funding in each of the circuits. For example, the \$109 million dollar legislative budget request only provided funding for "what was" in each circuit as of FY 1999/2000. By postponing its request, the TCBC will be able to develop a more equitable bases for funding, taking into account the lack of resources in certain circuits at present.

However, delaying implementation one year does not mean the TCBC will slow down its pace. A full slate of issues and activities will be addressed this session and summer by the Commission. For example, the TCBC will be involved with reviewing any suggested changes to Chapter 29. Likewise, the legislature this session may seek to address such issues as how to define county funding responsibilities for "local requirements," the definition of "essential elements" for the state courts, and possible movement of some fines, fees, and court costs from the local level to the state level, which the TCBC will be prepared

to address. Finally, the TCBC will continue to audit expenditure data from the recent inventory, work on developing "best practices" models for court programs, review personnel transition alternatives, and work to assure the trial courts in this state are not harmed during the Revision 7 transition.

OSCA staff have developed a TCBC website which contains information related to the work of the commission. The address is www.flcourts.org. Click on Judicial Administration, Article V/Revision 7, then click on Trial Court Budget Commission. ☞



John Dew is Chief of the newly established Trial Court Funding Policy Section. He is responsible for assisting the courts in the Revision 7 implementation. He previously served as the court's Director of Communication and Legislative Relations and also as a Legislative Analyst for the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations as their expert on Article V Funding. He can be reached at (850) 488-8414 or dewj@flcourts.org.

Chief Justice Wells Discusses Revision 7 with AP Reporters

With more than 65 journalists, including representatives from 28 Florida daily newspapers, Chief Justice Charles T. Wells seized the opportunity of making a presentation at the January 16 meeting of the Florida Associated Press to discuss Revision 7 and educate journalists on the importance of this issue to the citizens of Florida.

While the focus of the presentation was on Revision 7, Chief Justice Wells did begin by giving the audience an overview of the priority issues for the judicial branch for the next two years, including diversity in the court system, improving the processing of juvenile and capital cases, and the certification of need for additional judges.

In speaking about Revision 7, Chief Justice Wells stated, "It is time to bring into focus the importance of 1998 voter approval of Revision 7 to Article V of the Florida Constitution, to begin to carry out the promise, and take a giant step toward a unified court system in the state of Florida." He then went on to explain the nuts and bolts of Revision 7, including what it is and why it is important to Florida. In addi-



tion, he asked for the reporter's assistance, "to help the public understand that no government entity touches more lives than the courts."

Also participating in the presentation were State Courts Administrator Ken Palmer and Chief of Trial Court Funding, John Dew. Mr. Palmer reviewed the current local budgetary process, current county expenditures, and samples of items that would become state budget items for the trial courts under Revision 7 and what would remain county fiscal responsibilities. Journalists were also referred to the Florida State Courts web site for up-to-date information on Revision 7.

This educational session was more than likely the first time many of the journalists had been educated about Revision 7. It certainly will not be the last as more media education is currently being planned. For a copy of the AP presentation, log on to the Florida Courts web site at www.flcourts.org, click on Judicial Administration, click on Article V/Revision 7, then click on slide shows, and finally AP slide show. ☞

OSCA's Legislative Team Prepares for 2001 Legislative Session

The 2001 Legislative Session should be an educational one, with 12 freshman Senators and 63 freshman Representatives. The goal of the Office of the State Courts Administrator's Legislative Team is to have a well-coordinated approach for all issues, both substantive and budgetary. The legislative team will be tracking legislation and distributing weekly reports each Friday. Judges and other personnel with expertise on a broad range of topics will be helping us on proposed legislative bills. If you have questions or concerns regarding legislation, please call the legislative office at 850-922-5692.



Office of the State Courts Administrator's Legislative Team

OSCA Legislative Team by Topical Area

Administration, Dee Beranek
Article V/Revision 7, John Dew
Budget, Charlotte Jerrett
Civil Law, Laura Rush
Criminal Law, John Hogenmuller
Elections, Brenda Johnson and Richard Cox
Family Law, Elaine New
Information Systems Issues, Maria Arnold
Juvenile Delinquency, Harry Dodd
Juvenile Dependency, Patricia Badland
Probate/Guardianship, Elaine New
Constitutional Law, Dee Beranek
Traffic Law, Richard Cox
Personnel/Retirement, Margie Howard
Corrections, Grant Slayden

Additional Legislative Team Members:

Brian Lynch
 Brett Rayman
 Lynn Wells
 Debbie Howells
 Greg Youchock
 Jo Suhr
 Kristine Jenkins
 Kelly McMullen
 Ken Palmer
 Lisa Goodner
 Peggy Horvath
 Rose Patterson
 Susan Leseman
 Sharon Press
 Sondra Williams
 Tom Hall
 Tjuni Bouie
 Cathy Brockmeier
 Deborah Lacombe
 Arlene Johnson
 Eve Janocko
 Tom Long
 David Pepper

2001 Legislative Budget Request

State Courts Set **Budget Priorities**

by *Charlotte Jerrett, OSCA's Chief of Budget Services*

The State Courts System recently presented an overview of their budget request at the first, of what will be many, legislative appropriations committee meetings. With the addition of a large number of freshman members to the legislature, it will be a challenge to bring the members up to speed on court issues and critical funding needs.

In addition to the \$109 million issue in support of Revision 7 implementation, the Judicial Branch filed a request for \$61 million above the current base budget of \$289 million. Highlights of this request are as follows:

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court requested two additional central staff attorneys to assist with capital post-conviction proceedings, and four positions for the clerk's office to accommodate significant workload increases. In addition, three positions were requested in support of workload in the marshal's office and the library.

District Courts of Appeal

Critical issues for the district courts of appeal include an increase in funding for senior judge days and support staff. After many years of renting space from Hillsborough County, the 2nd DCA has been asked to give up their space, and is therefore requesting \$12.4 million to construct a courthouse facility for their Tampa location. Other fixed capital requests totaling \$2.8 million include fire control system improvements for the 4th DCA, and roof replacement for the 5th DCA. Various facility maintenance issues and subscription increases for law libraries round out the DCA budget request.

Trial Courts

While the \$109 million issue for Revision 7 funding will likely not be a priority for this next year, the trial courts have as priority issues, 334 positions for critical workload needs, and 30 positions to begin the first phase of a three year request, to provide one law clerk for every three circuit and county judges. A 15% increase has also been requested for additional senior judge days, and a revised issue is pending for the certification of additional judgeships.

Given the overall economic outlook and projected shortage of general revenue dollars, we are hopeful to receive funding of certain key issues, but expect some base budget reductions as well. Please contact Charlotte Jerrett (850) 487-0155 (SunCom 277-0155), for further details on the 2001/2002 Legislative Budget Request. ☺



Charlotte Jerrett is chief of budget services in the OSCA's Administrative Services Division. Her primary responsibility is the preparation and submission of the legislative budget request for the State Courts System. She is also the liaison with the Legislature's appropriations staff and the governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting. She can be reached at (850) 488-3733 or Suncom 278-3733.

Legislative Leadership Appointments

(As of: February 16, 2001)



Senate President
John McKay
(R-Bradenton)



Speaker of the House
Tom Feeney
(R-Oviedo)

Senate President John McKay (R-Bradenton) and Speaker of the House Tom Feeney (R-Oviedo) have announced leadership appointments for the upcoming regular legislative session, which begins March 6, 2001. Noteworthy for the State Courts System are the following:

Senate Related Committees

Criminal Justice Committee

Chair - Alex Villalobos
Vice Chair - Victor Crist
Charlie Bronson
Locke Burt
Kendrick Meek
Ron Silver
Rod Smith

Judiciary Committee

Chair - Locke Burt
Vice Chair - Buddy Dyer
Skip Campbell
Rudy Garcia
Jim Horne
Daryl Jones
Durell Peaden, Jr.
Jim Sebesta
Ron Silver
Alex Villalobos
Daniel Webster

Fiscal Group/Budget Committee (Public Safety & Judiciary Subcommittee)

Chair - Anna Cowin
Locke Burt
Mandy Dawson
Kendrick Meek
Alex Villalobos

House Related Councils & Committees

Council for Smarter Government

Chair - Gaston Cantens
Vice Chair - Ken Gottlieb
Gus Barreiro
Fred Brummer
Larry Crow
Mario Diaz-Balart
Bruce Kyle
Jerry Melvin
Ken Sorensen
Hank Harper
Richard Macheke
Stacy Ritter

Committee on Judicial Oversight

Chair - Larry Crow
Vice Chair - Jeff Kottkamp
Nancy Argenziano
Allan Bense
Dudley Goodlette
Jerry Melvin
Joe Pickens
Dennis Ross
Loranne Ausley
Tim Ryan
Jack Seiler

Committee on Child & Family Security

Chair - Nancy Detert
Vice Chair - Cindy Lerner
Dennis Baxley
Rene Garcia
Stan Jordan
Evelyn Lynn
Mark Mahon
Sandra Murman
Charlie Justice
Denise Lee
Nan Rich

Criminal Justice Appropriations Committee

Chair - Randy Ball
Vice Chair - Matt Meadows
Gus Barreiro
Gus Bilirakis
Marty Bowen
Mitch Needelman
Joe Negron
Jerry Paul
Allen Trovillion
Loranne Ausley
Edward Bullard
Jack Seiler

Committee on Juvenile Justice

Chair - Gus Barreiro
Vice Chair - Carey Baker
Randy Ball
Marty Bowen
Mark Flanagan
Edward Bullard
Dan Gelber
Frank Peterman

Joint Court Related Committees

House Joint Legislative Committee on Article V

Chair - Johnnie Byrd
Holly Benson
Larry Crow
Dan Gelber

Senate Joint Legislative Committee on Article V

Alternating Chair -
Victor Crist (2002)
Skip Campbell
John Laurent
Alex Villalobos

Public Trust and Confidence

Justices Visit Classrooms

In an ongoing effort to increase students' awareness about the law and the judicial system, Florida Supreme Court Justices can often be found where the kids are - in the classroom. In a recent visit to Sandalwood High School in Jacksonville, Chief Justice Charles T. Wells guided students through mock oral arguments and answered questions about his role on the bench. Justice Fred Lewis also attended a mock trial at Woodham High School in Pensacola. Many of the justices travel throughout the year visiting elementary and secondary schools across Florida. The visits provide students with a unique learning experience and often a new enthusiasm and understanding of the law and the judicial branch.



Justice Fred Lewis visits with students at Wesson Elementary.

Plans Underway for Law Week 2001

Law Week, usually held on or near May 1st each year, is a special time to focus on our heritage of liberty under law, a national time of celebration officially designated by joint resolution of Congress in 1961. Every year, various organizations from all over the country conduct thousands of programs on how rule of law makes our democracy possible.

Building public trust and confidence in the legal system is a high priority of the courts and the legal profession alike. Public education provides the most legitimate means of improving the administration of justice, restoring public trust, and increasing access



Chief Justice Wells spends time with a student at Sandalwood High School.

to the legal system. Last year's Florida Law Week program won the American Bar Association's national law week activity award.

The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. and the Supreme Court of Florida have worked cooperatively for over a decade to enhance law related education opportunities for Florida students and teachers. This year's Law Week program will include an appellate brief writing program, Law Week essay and poster contests, and a new resource and activity guide for Florida judges and lawyers entitled *Justice is Served!*

Law Week 2001 will target elementary, middle and high-school classrooms state-wide. The Florida Law Related Association, Inc. will administer the competition. Chief Justice Charles Wells and all of the Supreme Court justices have been invited to participate in the Law Week awards program. An educational program at the Supreme Court will introduce students and their families to the court system in Florida as well as the history of the Supreme Court. Students will participate in a mock oral argument as part of the educational experience.

For more information about any of these activities, contact the Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. at (850) 386-8223 or visit their web site at www.flrea.org. ☪

New Guardianship Monitoring Software Demonstrated

Judges and staff of the 17th Judicial Circuit and representatives of Florida Atlantic University demonstrated their newly-developed Probate, Guardianship & Mental Health Case Management System in Tallahassee on January 10. This public-private partnership was supported through a combination of funds from the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Elder Affairs, and the State Courts System. Representatives of the 6th Judicial Circuit, where the case management system is also being implemented, were present at the demonstration as well.



Judge Mel Grossman and Bryan M. Thabit of the 17th Circuit unveil the new Probate, Guardianship & Mental Health Case Management System.

This groundbreaking Windows® based case management program will not only enable judges and administrators to make better-informed decisions in the guardianship arena, but also provide additional information to statewide policymakers on the demographics, economic situation, and living conditions of wards under the court system's protection.

The program was developed through a partnership between the 17th Judicial Circuit and Florida Atlantic University in a hope to simplify and standardize the way in which guardianship information is reported

and audited. With more than 6,000 open guardianships in Broward County alone, spotting abuse and fraud has become increasingly difficult for the courts given the current paper system of guardianship reporting. It is hoped that the new software will assist the judicial review process through the analytical examining of guardianship accountings and by giving an in-depth view of a ward's mental and physical condition, treatment, living condition, and preservation of

rights. The software will be available at no cost to all Florida courts who wish to use it.

According to Judge Mel Grossman, "In a time of limited resources, we need to look to technology to ensure that we are doing our best to protect those who need protecting." The new system requires no data entry clerks as all work is entered by the preparer directly into a database. This can be accomplished by disk or in the future by electronic filing.

While still a work in progress, it is hoped that the system will be finalized by August 2001. For more information about this system, contact Bryan M. Thabit, CPA, Coordinator of Guardianship Services, 17th Circuit, (954) 831-6217 or bthabit@17th.flcourts.org.

Open Enrollment for Adoption Benefits

During the 2000 Session, the Florida Legislature enacted s. 110.152, Florida Statutes, which provides monetary adoption benefits for state and water management district employees who have adopted children on or after October 1, 2000. For the adoption of a special needs child, a monetary benefit in the amount of \$10,000 will be granted. Payment will be in the form of an initial lump sum amount of \$5,000, with the remaining \$5,000 paid in equal monthly installments over a 2-year period. For the adoption of a non-special needs child, the benefit will be in the amount of \$5,000. Payment of this benefit will be in the form of an initial lump sum amount of \$3,000, with the remaining \$2,000 paid in equal monthly installments over a 2-year period.

The Department of Management Services (DMS), who was charged with the responsibility of administering this legislation, has established an open enrollment period of January 15 - March 15, 2001 to give interested persons an opportunity to apply for these benefits. Persons who wish to be considered must submit a completed application along with a certified copy of the final order of adoption to their personnel office, for each child adopted on or after October 1, 2000. Each court's personnel office should expedite delivery of the required documentation to OSCA's Office of Personnel services to allow time for certification and transmittal to DMS by the end of the open enrollment period. The official application form is available on DMS' website at www.MyFlorida.com/dms/hrm. For additional information, please contact Del Schloss, Personnel Management Analyst, at (850) 488-3696 or Suncom 278-3696.

Circuit News

Dade County Teachers Take Day to Learn About the Judicial System

The Eleventh Judicial Circuit held its fourth Justice Teaching Institute (JTI) on Thursday, November 30, 2000. The JTI program educates teachers on how to introduce lessons on our judicial system in their classrooms.



“Chief Judge Joseph P. Farina and participants in the Eleventh Circuit’s 2000 Justice Teaching Institute.”

A working lunch included former Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court Justice Gerald Kogan as guest speaker. The participants ended their day by studying an actual Florida Supreme Court case.

Attending this informative program was 26 teachers from the Dade County Public School system. After a welcome from Chief Judge Joseph P. Farina, the group attended various workshops. The first focused on searching the Internet for educational materials pertaining to our judicial system, including the Florida Supreme Court’s web site, www.flcourts.org, where a “case of the month” can be found for inclusion in lesson plans. In a second workshop, entitled “Courts in Conflict Session,” teachers were placed into groups of three and learned how to apply alternative methods of dispute resolution in their classrooms.

“Programs such as these provide a stimulating learning environment for public school teachers,” said Chief Judge Farina. “The outcome of these sessions is to empower our youth with the values of responsibility, civility, communication, and respect as members of this community.” All in attendance were presented with Certificates of Appreciation.

Benchmarks

New Judicial Placements Since December 2000:

Circuit Court

- Thomas H. Bateman, III** 2nd Circuit
- John M. Griesbaum** 18th Circuit
- Richard A. Howard** 5th Circuit
- Wayne S. Timmerman** 13th Circuit

County Court

- Rosa C. Figarola** Miami-Dade County
- Cheryl K. Thomas** Hillsborough County

Any judge wishing to place his or her photograph on file with Full Court Press should send it to Kelly Sciba, Supreme Court of Florida, 500 S. Duval Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1900.

Legal Briefs

Judge Rippingille Volunteer Work Recognized

Miami-Dade County Court Judge Bonnie Lano Rippingille was recently recognized as Volunteer of the Year by the State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice through her work with delinquent girls in residential commitment programs in Miami-Dade County.



Judge Bonnie Lano Rippingille

The program she founded, Sisters of the Heart, links delinquent girls with women role models and provides the girls with cultural enrichment experiences in the arts and opportunities to observe and discuss domestic/repeat violence cases in the courtroom. The program was partially funded by the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County. Judge Rippingille has been actively involved in volunteer work with Miami-Dade youth for years in women's causes.

Sharon Press Recognized by Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium

Sharon Press, Program Manager of the Dispute Resolution Center at the Office of the State Courts Administrator, has been awarded the Eighth Excellence in Conflict Resolution Award by the Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium. The Award was

launched in 1993 and recognizes the contributions made by outstanding mediators in Florida to advance the quality of mediator practice. The award was presented to Ms. Press by Dr. Thomas A. Taylor, assistant director of the Consortium, at an evening reception at the Florida State University Center for Professional Development.

In addition to her duties at the Dispute Resolution Center, Ms. Press has also served as president of the International Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution, and as an ex-officio member of the Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium's Advisory Council.

Judge Lederman to Serve on National Advisory Committee

Judge Cindy S. Lederman, Administrative Judge of the Miami-Dade Juvenile Court, has been selected to serve on the National Advisory Committee of the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence (NCCEV) located at the Yale Child Study Center.

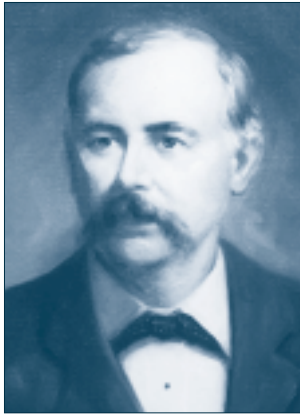
The NCCEV was created as part of the Safe Start Initiative on behalf of children exposed to violence. The goals of the NCCEV are to enhance individual awareness of the developmental risks and longer-term sequella of children exposed to violence and trauma, and to increase community capacity to respond to children exposed to violence and trauma by facilitating a broadening of the range of intervention options.

Message from Ken Palmer, Florida State Courts Administrator

Many of you are aware that I am on leave of absence from the Office of the State Courts Administrator for cancer treatment. I have been overwhelmed and humbled by the numerous calls and letters from judges and administrative staff throughout the branch. I wanted to take this opportunity to express my deep and sincere appreciation for your many outpourings of support and prayers on my behalf. I look forward to a full recovery and the privilege of once again working closely with all the fine professionals of our great judicial system.

Supreme Court History

James Diamant Westcott, Jr. Florida Supreme Court Justice 1868-1885



Justice James D. Westcott, Jr.

James D. Westcott, Jr. was born May 1, 1839 in Tallahassee, the son of James D. and Rebecca Sibley Bacon Westcott who had moved to Florida in the early Territorial Days. The younger Westcott's intellect and abilities were apparent from an early age. Between 1859 when he was 20 years of age and 1868 when he was 29, he was the private secretary of Governor Madison Starke Perry, a partner in the firm of Papy & Westcott, a member of the Florida house of Representatives (1866), Attorney General of Florida (1868) and a highly respected member of the Florida Supreme Court from 1868-1885. He was the youngest individual to serve in the history of the Supreme Court and during his term of service wrote 267 opinions.

Justice Westcott died on April 29, 1887. His last will and testament included the following words: "The rest of my estate, I wish held in trust for the benefit of the West Florida Seminary, the institution located at Tallahassee." In 1887 the Seminary received no financial support from the Florida Legislature and its very survival was in doubt. This addition to the usual income of the Seminary made the difference between its bare existence and its future growth. In December 1936 the college president, Edward Conradi, announced that the name, "Administration Building" had been changed to the "James D. Westcott, Jr. Memorial Building" at what is now Florida State University. ☪

Mark Your Calendar

Florida to Host 2001 National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts

At the June 2000 Passing the Gavel ceremony, Chief Justice Charles Wells assumed the duties and responsibilities of the chief administrative officer of the judicial branch. In his acceptance speech, Wells acknowledged that one of the main issues that substantially weakens the public's trust and confidence in the courts, as identified through research and surveys, is that people believe the justice system is unfair to minorities. He pledged "to be relentless in furtherance of the cause of equal justice and fairness for all the people of this state."

In keeping with his promise, Chief Justice Wells invited the National Consortium of Task Forces and Commissions on Racial and Ethnic Bias to convene its 2001 conference in the Orlando area. After a competitive process, Florida was selected as the host state. The Supreme Court Commission on Fairness has been charged with developing the content of the educational program and securing speakers.

The conference is scheduled for May 10-12, 2001, at the Peabody Orlando Hotel on International Drive. Each trial and appellate court in Florida will be asked to designate a team to participate in this important national education conference. Please mark your calendars now and watch your mail for additional information.

New Dates for Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies (AJS)

The 2001 Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies will be held September 10-14, at the Westin Innisbrook Resort. The college offers courses of interest to county, circuit and appellate judges, child support hearing officers, and trial court administrators. Course catalogs, including course information and application, will be mailed in late March. ☪

Full Court Press Needs Court News

Full Court Press is the official newsletter of the Florida State Court System. As such we would like to highlight the work of all county, circuit, and appellate courts from across the state. If you have a program or story that you would like to see featured in *Full Court Press*, please forward the information to:

Kelly Sciba, Editor
Full Court Press
Office of the State Courts Administrator
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1900
or by e-mail at: scibak@flcourts.org

March

- 1 Committee on Juvenile Fairness Issues, Orlando
- 4-6 National Association for Court Management (NACM) Midyear Conference, Las Vegas
- 6 Legislature Convenes - Court Open
- 7-9 Florida Conference of County Court Judges Spring Board Meeting, Radisson, Tallahassee
- 18 Florida Court Education Council Meeting, 3:00, Judicial Meeting Room, Tallahassee
- 18-23 Florida Judicial College, Phase II, CPD, Tallahassee
- 25-29 Justice Teaching Institute, Supreme Court Building, Tallahassee
- 28-29 National Task Force on Court Automation and Integration, Albuquerque
- 29 Judicial Management Council, Committee on Trial Court Performance & Accountability, Court Interpreter Workgroup Session, 9:30 - 3:00, Tampa
- 30 Judicial Management Council, Committee on Trial Court Performance & Accountability, Criminal Workgroup Session, 9:00 - 3:00, Tampa
- 30 Guardianship Monitoring Committee, Location to be announced
- 30 Children's Court Improvement Committee Meeting, 9:00 - 4:00, Tallahassee

Note: *The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments from 3/5, 3/7-3/9, and 3/29.*

*Courtside
Events*

Full Court Press is published bi-monthly by Florida's Office of the State Courts Administrator. Readers may submit articles about the courts system or letters regarding the newsletter's coverage of court-related issues. All rights are reserved to edit or decline any material submitted for publication. Send your correspondence to *Full Court Press*, Supreme Court of Florida, 500 S. Duval Street, Tallahassee FL 32399-1900.

This issue of *Full Court Press* was printed on recycled paper at a cost of approximately \$1.50 per copy. Please pass it along to others who might find the information interesting.

*Charles T. Wells
Chief Justice*

*Kenneth R. Palmer
State Courts Administrator*

*Brenda G. Johnson
Chief of Communication and Legislative Relations*

*Kelly Sciba
Editor*

*Roopali Kambo
Art Director*

*Florida State Courts Website:
<http://www.flcourts.org/>*

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