

**Welcome 2017**  
**By: Lee Ann Bennett, Clerk of Court**

It's hard to believe a new year has begun. It seems like only yesterday I was writing the lead article for the January 2016 newsletter. In that article, I shared that the Court would continue its commitment to becoming One Court, One Team with the focus on uniformity. Although there were times it appeared our commitment got off track throughout the year, I found we all worked together to focus again on that goal. So many are to be thanked for helping us continue to meet our goal. First, I thank our judges who continued with their commitment of thinking district-wide and not divisionally. In 2012, they agreed to focus on "what is simple, fair, necessary, and best meets the needs of our constituencies." They continued with that focus in 2016. I also want to thank our staff and members of the bar who have continued to serve on various committees or working groups. The following deserve to be recognized:

Steering Committee Members

Elena Ketchum – Chair  
Keith Appleby  
Brad Hissing  
Lori Vaughan  
Jason Burgess  
Ellsworth Summers  
Michael Waskiewicz  
Justin Luna  
Lorne Durket  
Hunter Goff  
David Finemann  
Luis Rivera  
Brian Zinn  
Denise Barnett  
Jill Kelso  
Doug Neway  
Kelly Remick  
Dawn Carapella  
Robert Thomas  
Mary Maddox  
Raymond Waguespack  
Sara Mason

Local Rules Lawyers Advisory Committee Members

(list includes current members and members who served through June)  
Honorable Caryl E. Delano – Chair  
Lara Fernandez  
Jacob "Jay" Brown  
Greg Champeau  
Betsy Cox  
Donald Kirk  
Andrew Layden  
Luis Rivera  
Rick Webber  
Raymond Waguespack (Clerk's office representative)  
Laura Stevenson (Administrative assistance)

Chapter 13 Trustees

(provided chapter 13 process input)  
Laurie Weatherford  
Jon Waage  
Kelly Remick  
Doug Neway

The 59 staff members who serve on an internal Court Committee (Procedure, Drafting, Update, Newsletter, Website, IT, Training and Outreach).

The Lawyers who have volunteered at one of the Pro Bono Clinics.

I hope you will continue to serve and make a difference. Last year I challenged you to "reset" by thinking positively, working productively, exercising daily, eating healthy, relaxing, laughing,

**Court Connection**  
**Volume No. 6 – Issue No. 1**  
**January 2017**

having fun, being happy, sharing love and living well. This year I challenge you to take the opportunity to make a difference. At a recent staff meeting, my Human Resource Manager shared the story of Warrick Dunn and Deshaun Watson.

For those of you who don't follow football, Warrick Dunn played for Florida State and later for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Deshaun Watson is the quarterback for the Clemson Tigers (the National College Champions). Warrick Dunn started the "Home for the Holidays" program in 1997 that provides home furnishings and down payment assistance to disadvantaged single parents. The families are selected through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity affiliates. His program furnished a Habitat for Humanity home for Deshaun Watson's family in 2006. Deshaun Watson in turn, works with Habitat for Humanity by helping build homes in the summer. I am so proud of my staff who, with the same spirit displayed by Warrick Dunn and Deshaun Watson of giving back, donated to Metropolitan Ministries (Tampa organization who help the homeless), Second Harvest Food Bank (Orlando organization), PetSmart (support for pets of the victim of the Pulse tragedy), toys to Champions for Children, CARES (a service for home recovery and the elderly), SPCA, and Camaraderie Foundation (provides healing for invisible wounds of war). Many members of the bar also displayed that same spirit of giving by donating their time and expertise to the pro bono clinics across the district. I hope in 2017, the spirit of giving continues to grow through staff endeavors and through an increase in bar members volunteering to assist at the pro bono clinics.

Happy New Year.