

The Little Extra That Makes It Work

By: Chief Judge Michael G. Williamson

Last month I had the pleasure of attending the annual Employee Recognition ceremonies in the Jacksonville, Orlando, and Tampa Divisions. In addition to their regular duties, a majority of our staff also contribute to the ongoing improvement to our court's procedures and overall operations and outreach through their participation as members of a number of committees that were formed by Judge Jennemann as part of the process of bringing our Court into a new era based on the concept of One Court, One Team on a district-wide basis.

The most difficult challenge that Judge Jennemann faced in thinking "District Wide" was establishing uniform procedures throughout the District. Our court had a longstanding tradition of allowing each judge to dictate the procedures that applied to his or her cases—policies that were followed by chambers staff and the case managers assigned to the individual judge. Simply put, the judge-by-judge approach could no longer be supported in today's budget environment.

Following Judge Jennemann's mantra to "Think Bottom-Up, Not Top Down," this ambitious project did not start with the judges. Instead, numerous committees were established, which comprised of the accomplished and experienced members of our Clerk's staff, who together have over 1000 years of combined experience working in our Court.

I want to again express the appreciation of our Court to those of you who served on one or more of the following committees:

Procedures Gathering Committees, made up of Case Managers, were set up to catalogue all of the different procedures in place among the judges' teams. Members of these committees over the past year were:

Cathy P.
Dana B.
Faye G.
Kim P.
Laura G.

Mary H
Ryan S.
Susan B.
Tonya C.

updates and new software prior to implementation. Members of this committee over the past year were:

Scott L.	Deanna B.
Bernadette L.	Melanie L.
Sabrina M.	Susan M.
Cathy M.	Karla M.
Anel M.	

Outreach Committee assists with forming and fostering connections among staff in all divisions, which results in a more cohesive staff thinking District-wide. The committee plans and coordinates various celebrations and community outreach/fundraising efforts. Members of this committee over the past year were:

Alison H.	Gull W.
Nita B.	Rutha H.
Karla M.	Penny M.
Dianna V.	Susan M.
Susan G.	Vivianne C.
Chris T.	Marti M.
Heather L.	

Newsletter Committee consists of staff in various positions in all locations. This committee is responsible for issuing the Court's external and internal quarterly newsletters – The "Court Connection" and "The Court Interconnection". Members of this committee over the past year were:

Ed C.	Jodie H.
Susan M.	Jill N.
Aimee J.	Ray R.
Laura S.	Susan M.
Dana B.	

Through their participation on these various committees, each committee member contributes to the ongoing improvements to our Court's procedures, as well as the Court's overall operations and community outreach efforts. On behalf of our Court, thanks to all of you for giving the little extra that makes it all work.