

# Second District Court of Appeal Plans Court Session on USF Campus

TAMPA – For the first time, the Second District Court of Appeal (DCA) has agreed to conduct a court session on the campus of the University of South Florida, culminating efforts of a Pinellas County circuit judge who serves his alma mater as an adjunct professor.

A three-judge panel from the DCA will convene to hear a one-case docket at 5:45 p.m. on March 23 in Room 206 of The Joint Military Leadership Center (Young Hall). It is an example of taking the court to the people, who are students in a Law & Legal Careers course that is taught by Sixth Judicial Circuit Judge Raymond Gross. Gross said others at USF may want to use the occasion to witness an appellate court oral argument, and he thinks the opportunity will be taken advantage of by pre-law and political science students and faculty.

Scheduled to be on the panel that will hear the attorneys' arguments are 2<sup>nd</sup> DCA Judges Chris W. Altenbernd, Carolyn K. Fulmer, and Darryl C. Casanueva.

Oral arguments are normally conducted at the court's headquarters in Lakeland and the teaching courtroom at the Stetson College of Law in Tampa.



Judge Gross

Judges Casanueva and Fulmer are USF graduates, as is Judge Gross, who first contacted the DCA several months ago about idea of taking the court to the campus. Eventually, he was in contact with 2<sup>nd</sup> DCA Judge Edward LaRose, who worked with other DCA judges to get the project moving. Judge Altenbernd has indicated he will invite his Explorer Scout troop to observe the proceeding.

Judge Gross, who has taught evening classes at USF for the past nine years, said it is rare for court sessions to be moved out of court facilities because of security and logistics concerns. In addition to providing USF students and faculty an opportunity to sit in on a court proceeding, the room will be set up so that lawyers arguing their case can do so under the normal guise and decorum of the court.

Judge Gross has been a lifetime supporter of USF and Florida State University, where he earned his juris doctorate in 1972 after being awarded a bachelor's degree at USF in 1969. He has been recognized with three different awards for his support of the university and its alumni association. He is a past president of the USF National Alumni Board of Directors and currently sits on the board of the USF Foundation. In addition to teaching upper level courses about the legal profession and public policy, he has been a lecturer for Advanced Judicial Study continuing education and in various programs at Stetson College of Law.

A circuit judge since 1995, he currently presides over cases in Pinellas Unified Family Court and is administrative judge of that division.