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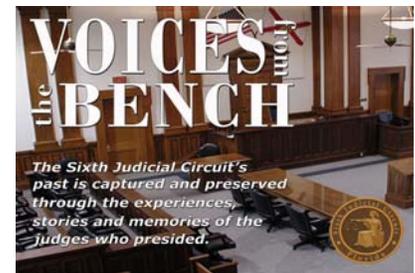
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## Videos of Retired Judges' Comments Capture Sixth Judicial Circuit History

CLEARWATER – Newly posted videos on the Sixth Judicial Circuit's website begin to create a history of the circuit, utilizing the memories of the judges who have presided in the courts that serve Pasco and Pinellas counties.

"Voices From the Bench," ([http://www.jud6.org/video\\_library.html](http://www.jud6.org/video_library.html)) currently has seven segments featuring five judges who retired at the end of 2012: Judges Henry Andringa, Douglas Baird, Robert Cole, David Demers and Richard Luce. Plans call for the future addition of segments featuring previously retired judges as the production work is finished.



Chief Judge J. Thomas McGrady, who announced the project said, "Court files have always been there to record court activity, but until now there have been no records about the people who made the decisions that are detailed in those files. This project changes that."

When judges retired in the past, McGrady said, history was lost because their memories and experiences went with them. "The valuable knowledge and education that are products of their service are not available to others," he said. "This project is intended to perpetuate that previously lost knowledge." Persons who might be interested in the videos include "our colleagues on the bench, successors, students doing research for civics and other classes, government officials, the general public . . . even the judges' kids and grandchildren," he stated.

In addition to recalling their time on the bench, the videos capture judges reminiscing about their early career plans, how they came to be judges and their retirement plans. Some examples:

- One judge's youthful goal was to become President of the U.S.;
- Another has plans for he and his wife to navigate their boat on a journey of more than 5,000 miles up the nation's east coast via the Atlantic IntraCoastal Waterway, around the "Great Loop" that includes the Hudson River to the Erie Canal through the Great Lakes, and down the Illinois, Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee rivers to Mobile, AL, where they will join the Florida Intracoastal for the final leg home;
- A third offers an unsolicited opinion on the decriminalization of marijuana.

Throughout their judicial careers, the Canons of Ethics rightfully keep judges from revealing much about their personalities and thoughts. "Now in the Sixth Circuit," McGrady said, "constituents can see that their

judges are real-life individuals with families, hobbies and interests . . . just like the people they served. But most of all, the videos show their unending commitment to the principles and ethics that are the underlying foundation of the job they did.”

The project was conceived and managed by Sixth Circuit Public Information Officer Ron Stuart, and video and graphics were produced by Electronic Systems Assistant Manager Eric Johnson.