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Three Judges Honored For Their Expertise, Legal Acumen and Contributions

CLEARWATER - Three judges in the Sixth Judicial Circuit were recognized last month for their professionalism, high standards of conduct, and contributions, both in and out of the courtroom.

County Judge James Pierce, who is now an acting circuit judge in Unified Family Court, was honored for “exemplifying extraordinary service to the community” by Fresh Start Innovative Mentoring, a non-profit organization that matches mentors with teens and adults on probation.



Judge James Pierce

According to Chaplain Herb Schluderberg, the founder and president of Fresh Start, Judge Pierce was recognized for, among other things, starting Boys Court this year.

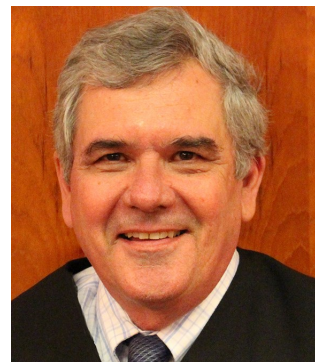
Boys Court, which Judge Pierce started up in January, is an effort by the Sixth Judicial Circuit to steer wayward youth to productive lives through the use of motivational speakers, mentors, journaling, community service and close monitoring.

Judge Pierce was honored on May 19 at a special dinner held at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort on Clearwater Beach.

Earlier in the month, on May 13, Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge John Schaefer was given the John U. Bird Judicial Excellence Award by the Clearwater Bar Association, at its Annual Law Day Luncheon at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa.

The award was created to recognize honor, high ideals, personal character, judicial competence and service.

And, on May 5, farther south, Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Jack Day was recognized by the St. Petersburg Bar. Judge Day won the bar’s Judicial Appreciation Award at the bar’s Annual Law Day Luncheon, which, this year, was held at the Mirror Lake Lyceum in St. Petersburg.



Judge John Schaefer



Judge Jack Day

A local jurist typically wins the award after the bar solicits nominations. Among the factors considered are a nominee’s courtroom demeanor, his or her judicial experience, helpfulness to lawyers and litigants, and activities off the bench that promote the administration of justice and civic participation.

Both Judge Day and Judge Schaefer handle civil cases.