

New Attorneys Sworn in to Florida Bar



Approximately 50 new attorneys took the oath of admission to the Florida Bar during a ceremony in Courtroom 1 at the Criminal Justice Center in Clearwater on Sept. 27. Here, Sixth Judicial Circuit's Chief Judge Robert J. Morris Jr. administers the oath. Before swearing them in, Judge Morris advised the new attorneys that "We as a profession are only as strong as our weakest link. Your reputation is priceless; protect it all costs." The ceremony, coordinated by the Young Lawyers Sections of the St. Petersburg & Clearwater Bar Associations, drew a standing-room only crowd of parents and friends.



After welcomes, from Paul V. Suppicich and Christina Green Rankin, right, representing the Young Lawyer sections of the St. Petersburg and Clearwater Bar Associations, respectively, the about-to-be-sworn attorneys were presented to Chief Judge Morris by Murray B. Silverstein, above, the Sixth Circuit representative to the Florida Bar Board of Governors.



Words of Wisdom



New attorneys, families and friends filled Courtroom 1, and some watched on video in Courtroom 2. Here, Chief Judge Robert Morris speaks about the practice of law, saying, “No other calling among humanity has been such a factor in the vindication of personal rights and the advancement of universal justice between the state and the people and between individuals.” Judge Morris also advised, “The importance of being prepared is paramount to our profession,” and “No amount of loyalty to the client should prompt the slightest deviation from the truth, nor can it justify misstatement of fact or deceit of the court.”



Judges who attended the ceremony were seated in the jury box (above). Among those offering congratulations and words of advice were Second District Court of Appeal Judge E. J. Salcines, above left, and former Chief Judge Circuit Judge David Demers, above right.



Before delivering the benediction, Judge James Pierce, above, told the new attorneys of his “5 B’s.” He advised them to “Be prepared! Be heard! Be seen! Be brief! and Be done!”