

Pinellas County Judges Elected To Positions in Statewide Organization

CLEARWATER – Two veteran Pinellas County judges have been elected to leadership positions in the Conference of County Court Judges of Florida.

At the group's annual education program in Orlando, Pinellas County Judge Patrick Caddell was elected vice president for the area served by the Second District Court of Appeal, and Pinellas County Judge Shawn Crane was re-elected as the Sixth Circuit's representative on the Conference's Board of Directors.

The two will help guide the Conference, which provides continuing judicial education and programs designed to improve the administration of justice in the State of Florida. Caddell will represent the area in the 14 counties in the Sixth, 10th, 12th, 13th and 20th judicial circuits. Crane will represent the county judges in Pasco and Pinellas counties.

Also during the recent conference, Judge Caddell conducted an educational program on Election Canvassing Law, and Circuit Judge David A. Demers – chief judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit – provided the attendees with updates on Criminal Law and Civil and Criminal contempt.

Judge Caddell is one of the longest-serving election canvassers in Florida, having chaired the Pinellas County Canvassing Board for every election for the past 18 years. Canvassing boards oversee the election process and certify the results of each election.

Judge Caddell, the Sixth Judicial Circuit's County Court administrative judge, presides over Pinellas' misdemeanor court for domestic violence and violation of protection orders. In 2005, his work in handling domestic violence cases was recognized statewide with his selection as the only judge to receive a 2005 Governor's Peace at Home: Stopping Domestic Violence Award.

Judge Caddell, a former president of the Family Service Centers of Pinellas County, has been on the bench since 1987. He is a graduate of Lakewood High School, the University of Florida and Stetson University College of Law.

Judge Crane currently is doing temporary duty in a vacant circuit judgeship, overseeing the Circuit's Adult Drug Court, the program that saves taxpayers an estimated \$6.9 million per year by diverting drug law offenders from jail sentences into supervised treatment programs.

Before being seated on the bench in 2002, Judge Crane was a Pinellas County prosecutor for more than 18 years. For seven years he was director of the Sixth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Misdemeanor Division, supervising more than 30 attorneys.

Crane, a native of New Jersey, graduated from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, IN, and Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport.



Judge Patrick Caddell



Judge Shawn Crane

