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Circuit Judge Marion Fleming to Participate In South Africa Program on Juvenile Justice

CLEARWATER – Sixth Judicial Circuit Judge Marion Fleming has been selected to participate in a program designed to help South Africa implement juvenile and family justice programs. Judge Fleming and the other 24 U.S. members of the People to People delegation will be in South Africa from Sept. 15 to 25 for a series of programs, forums and discussions.

Mary Mentaberry, executive director of the National Council and Family Court Judges, will lead the delegation to Johannesburg and Cape Town. The People to People Foundation programs were initiated by then President Eisenhower to implement his idea that “ordinary citizens of different nations, if able to communicate directly, would solve their differences and find a way to live in peace.”



Judge Fleming

Ms. Mentaberry said the programs that will feature Judge Fleming, other judges, attorneys, child advocates, psychologists and other professionals will focus on topics, such as:

- Challenges faced in implementing recent legislation focused on South Africa’s juvenile justice system;
- The country’s child welfare system and problems presented by the AIDS epidemic;
- Domestic violence;
- Family law cases (divorce, child custody and visitation);
- Substance abuse and its effect on court caseloads.

Judge Fleming’s judicial experience qualifies her well as a member of the delegation. She presides over Unified Family Court (UFC) cases involving dependency, delinquency and other family law matters that affect the health and well-being of children. Prior to the inauguration of UFC, she served as a judge in the Juvenile Delinquency Division and also has served as a Family Court Judge. She was elected to the Circuit Court bench in 1996.