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Circuit Judge Thomas McGrady Elected For New Term as Sixth Circuit's Chief Judge

CLEARWATER – Circuit Judge J. Thomas McGrady has been re-elected to a second term as Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, the courts for Pasco and Pinellas County.

McGrady was re-elected by acclamation during a meeting of the circuit's 68 other judges on Feb. 23. In 2009, he was elected to succeed Circuit Judge Robert J. Morris Jr., appointed to fill a vacancy on the Second District Court of Appeal. The new term for McGrady, who has been a judge in the circuit since 1999, will officially begin on July 1 and will last until June 30, 2013.

The Chief Judge is constitutionally responsible for the administrative supervision of the courts and court staff within the Sixth Circuit, which serves almost 1.5 million residents in the two counties.

Judge- McGrady thanked his fellow judges and noted that "Like the other two branches of government, the Judicial Branch is being challenged by today's economic conditions, but our judges remain committed to a just court system that is accessible to all our citizens."



Judge McGrady

Judge McGrady has been on the bench in the Sixth Circuit since August 1999, when then-Gov. Jeb Bush appointed him to fill a vacancy as a County Judge in Pinellas. He was elected for a full term without opposition in September 2000, and in December 2001, Bush again chose McGrady, this time for a vacant Circuit Judgeship. In 2004 and 2010, he was elected without opposition for full six-year terms. During his judicial service, he has been assigned to the Family Law Division, where he was administrative judge for Family Law, the Civil Division, and both misdemeanor and felony Criminal Divisions.

In May 2009, the St. Petersburg Bar Association presented its Judicial Appreciation Award to McGrady.