



Gay Lynne Inskeep
Trial Courts Administrator

Administrative Office of the Courts
The Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida
14250 49th Street North, Suite 2000
Clearwater, Florida 33762
(727) 453-7176
Suncom: 8-525-7176
Fax: (727) 453-7166

Public Information Office

Circuit Judge Irene Sullivan Appointed To Statewide Task Force on Juvenile Justice

CLEARWATER – Sixth Judicial Circuit Irene Sullivan is one of two judges appointed to a 25-member statewide “Blueprint Commission” that is charged with developing a plan for reforming Florida’s juvenile justice system.

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Secretary Walter McNeil said the committee of community leaders, juvenile justice stakeholders and policy experts will address key concerns, such as juvenile recidivism, over-representation of minority youths, and the trend involving girls – the fastest-growing segment of the juvenile justice population.



Judge Sullivan

The commission, which will issue a report to Gov. Charlie Crist and the Legislature, will be chaired by Frank Brogan, president of Florida Atlantic University and a former lieutenant governor.

Judge Sullivan, who hears cases in the Circuit’s Unified Family Court section in Clearwater, said the commission has scheduled public hearings in Fort Lauderdale (Sept. 6-7); Jacksonville (Sept. 25-26); Orlando (Oct. 4-5); Fort Myers (Oct. 17-18); Tampa (Oct. 29-30); and Pensacola (Nov. 5-6). Judge Sullivan said the Commission will invite input from citizens and persons involved in all aspects of juvenile justice programs and services. Local community leaders, state and national experts and researchers are also expected to make presentations on juvenile justice trends and best practices.

McNeil said DJJ is being assisted by three prominent philanthropic foundations that are committed to systemic reform in juvenile justice: JEHT Foundation, based in New York; the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, Jacksonville; and the Eckerd Family Foundation, Clearwater. All three foundations have a long history of supporting programs that balance public safety with successful intervention and treatment focused on turning around the lives of troubled youths, he said.

The Children’s Campaign, Inc., the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services and the Florida Juvenile Justice Association (FJJA) also will participate, according to McNeil.

Since beginning her service on the bench in 1999, Judge Sullivan has developed a reputation as being passionate and compassionate about children in the court system. In Unified Family Court, she handles delinquency and dependency cases and related family and truancy matters. Her former judicial assignment was in family law and domestic violence. She is a member of steering committees created by the Florida Supreme Court and the Conference of Circuit Judges to address issues relating to children and families.



Judge Sullivan receives congratulations from Stetson Law School Dean Darby Dickerson. Judge Sullivan had just been presented with the Ben C. Willard Award, given annually to a Stetson graduate for “distinguished humanitarian achievements, which have benefited Florida citizens and people throughout the world.”

Prior to being elected to the bench, Judge Sullivan was a partner at Harris, Barrett, Mann and Dew, a St. Petersburg law firm. She is a graduate of Northwestern University and Stetson University College of Law.

In June, she was recognized with the Ben C. Willard Award, presented to a Stetson graduate for “distinguished humanitarian achievements, which have benefited Florida citizens and people throughout the world.”

And in 2005, she was the recipient of the annual PACE award, presented by Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services (PEMHS). The PACE (for PEMHS Applauds Community Endeavor) awards recognize contributions to the community in the area of mental health awareness and services.