



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

**Gay Lynne Inskeep**  
Trial Courts Administrator

**Public Information Office**

## **Judges Schedule Forum With At-Risk Youths**

CLEARWATER – Nine judges have confirmed their attendance at this year’s Alpha Institute Judicial Forum, a program designed to inspire and motivate at-risk young men. The 2011 Forum will be on Saturday, March 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mount Olive A.M.E. Church Educational Building, 600 Jones St., Clearwater.

The judges won’t be in robes. They want the at-risk young persons to see them as someone they can identify with and discuss the problems they face. When appropriate, the judges relate their own experiences, hoping to inspire the attending young men and women to overcome prejudices and to make good decisions when faced with difficult life choices.

The first forum was organized more than 10 years ago by Circuit Judge Michael Andrews, who recruited fellow black judges to help him:

- Address issues facing today’s youths, particularly young black males.
- Present the justice system in a positive manner.
- Introduce himself and other African American judges as role models that young people may choose to emulate.

The Alpha Institute – organizer of this year’s forum – is a mentoring program that focuses on at-risk African American males in middle and high school. The Institute’s primary mission is to provide a sound structural program to mentor male adolescents, enhancing self-esteem, education, leadership skills, and cultural awareness.

Although the Alpha Institute’s focus is on African American males, the Judicial Forum is a public program that is open to the entire community. In fact, three female judges are on this year’s program, which is a collaboration of the Youth Development Initiative, Inc., Alpha Institute, Inc., Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board, St. Petersburg College, Omicron Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Joining Judge Andrews on this year’s program will be 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Judge Charles Williams, Ninth Judicial Circuit Judge Reginald Whitehead, Hillsborough County Judge Eric Myers and these other Sixth Circuit (local) judges: Pasco County Judge Debra Roberts, Circuit Judge Patrice Moore, Pinellas County Judge Myra McNary, and Pinellas County Judge James Pierce.

Additional information is available by contacting Dr. Joseph Smiley, director of the Alpha Institute, at (727) 712-5851.