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Black History Month Program on the Legal System To Feature 2 Pinellas Judges & Local Attorneys

ST. PETERSBURG – Real life situations will be covered in various court scenarios that will be discussed by two Pinellas County judges during Saturday’s 2007 Lawfest Workshop, a Black History Month program designed to help minorities and others from low income neighborhoods understand the legal system. Several attorneys will be on hand to provide one-on-one legal counseling for those in need.

Pinellas County Judge James V. Pierce said that while he and Circuit Judge Michael F. Andrews are setting up the pretend court scenarios and answering questions about the court system, attorneys will be providing legal advice for those in need of an attorney and without resources to hire one.

“While the court programs will be pretend, the legal situations are real, and people face them every day,” Judge Pierce said. A similar program last year drew more than 100 people with a need of legal advice, he said.

“In all phases of life today, education is the most powerful key to success,” Judge Pierce said. “And on Saturday, we hope to help build that key for people in need of help.”

Lawfest 2007 will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday (Feb. 24) at the St. Petersburg College Midtown Center, 1048 22nd St. South, St. Petersburg. Persons desiring to schedule a session with an attorney may do so in advance by calling 727-894-6295, or they may just show up. A hot lunch will be served to those who attend.

The 2007 Lawfest Workshop is being presented by Successes Unlimited Women and Youth Business Center Inc., a non- profit organization that works for economic development and education in poor communities. Other sponsors of the Black History Month program are Campbell Park Neighborhood Family Center, Front Porch Community Development Association and SPC Midtown Center.