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## **Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Benjamin S. Thomas Sworn In At Investiture**

CLEARWATER - Though he has been presiding over cases since his appointment by Gov. Ron DeSantis in December, Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Benjamin St. Thomas was officially sworn in during his investiture on Friday, May 17, 2024, at the Pinellas County Justice Center in Clearwater.

Before a packed courtroom, Judge Thomas, in a speech that was often self-deprecatory and funny, started off with a litany of thanks – to God, to the governor, to the St. Petersburg Bar Association, in which he was active as a young attorney, to Daniel A. Martinez, with whom he worked at Segundo Law Group in St. Petersburg before his appointment, to the staff at the law firm, to his fellow judges, to his former colleagues in the United States Air Force, in which he served, to his bailiff, to his judicial assistant, and to his family, not just his mother and father, but especially to his wife.

Addressing everyone, he said, I “want you to know that I stand here not only because of you and your support of me but I stand here for you.” “I am here to serve,” he said. He then noted that he comes from a long line of service, with many members of his family having served in the military for generations, or working as preachers, teachers and community counselors. “I, too, am nothing if not a servant,” he said.

Judge Thomas presides over domestic relations cases, domestic violence cases, child support cases, and adoptions at the Robert D. Sumner Judicial Center in Dade City.



Judge Thomas addressing the audience at his investiture at the Pinellas County Justice Center on Friday, May 17, 2024.