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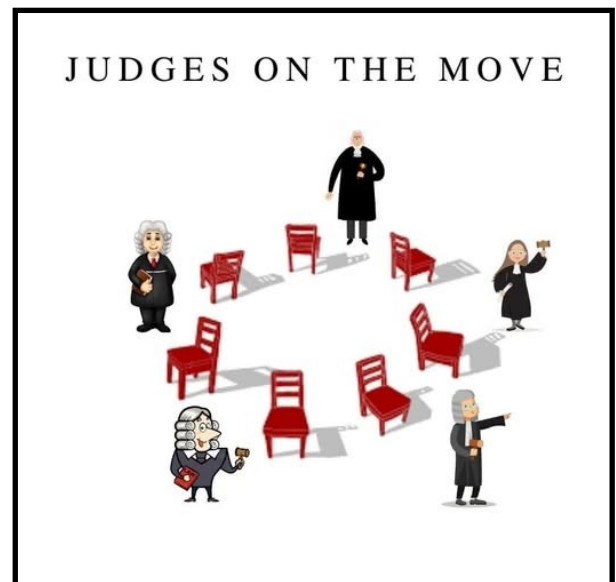
Public Information Office

Some Judges In Sixth Circuit Are Assigned to New Divisions

CLEARWATER - Now is as good a time as any to make clear the moves our judges have made this January in accordance with administrative orders put together by Chief Judge Shawn Crane.

We'll start out with Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Christopher LaBruzzo who took over Judge Chris Helinger's criminal division at the County Justice Center in Clearwater after Judge Helinger retired as of the end of December last year.

This created a vacancy in the Unified Family Court division in the annex at CJC, where Judge LaBruzzo had been presiding. It was filled by Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Sherwood Coleman, who is coming to CJC from the downtown Clearwater courthouse, where he had been presiding over a probate division.



Taking his place is Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Cynthia Newton, who was handling civil cases in downtown St. Petersburg. Her spot in turn was filled by Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Rebecca Hamilton, who had been handling family cases in downtown St. Petersburg.

Her spot in family has been taken by Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Brian Gnage, who had been handling family cases at the Robert D. Sumner Judicial Center in Dade City, in Pasco County. Judge Gnage's spot there is being filled by newly-elected circuit judge Nicole Pearlman.

Speaking of Pasco, Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Kemba Lewis, who had been presiding over drug court, has taken over a civil division, filling a vacancy created when Judge Declan Mansfield retired as of December 31 of last year. Newly-elected Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Jenn Dubbeld will now preside over drug court in Pasco County.

There's been one change in the county division at CJC. Pinellas County Judge Joseph Lawhorne is leaving a traffic division to a newly-created county criminal division. His departure is not creating a vacancy as the number of traffic divisions is being reduced from three to two. Those two will continue to be handled by Pinellas County Judge Theodora Komninos and Pinellas County Judge Dorothy Vaccaro.

Staying put in their respective divisions are all the other judges in the circuit.