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Circuit Judge Thomas McGrady Elected For New Term as Sixth Circuit's Chief Judge

CLEARWATER – Circuit Judge J. Thomas McGrady has been re-elected to a third term as Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, the courts for Pasco and Pinellas County.

McGrady was re-elected by acclamation during a Feb. 27 meeting of the circuit's 68 other judges. McGrady's tenure as Chief Judge began in 2009, when he was elected to succeed Circuit Judge Robert J. Morris Jr., appointed to fill a vacancy on the Second District Court of Appeal. McGrady's new term officially begins on July 1, 2013, and runs until June 30, 2015.

The Chief Judge is constitutionally responsible for the administrative supervision of the courts and court staff within the Sixth Circuit, which serves almost 1.5 million residents in the two counties.

Judge McGrady thanked his fellow judges and pointed out that "Economic conditions of the last few years have affected everyone, and like the other two branches of government, the Judicial Branch was challenged. But our judges remain committed to a just court system that is accessible to all our citizens."



Judge McGrady

He also noted underway projects in both counties and said, "I look forward to working with the county commissions and other constitutional officers who have begun the planning for consolidation and building expansions in Clearwater and Land O' Lakes. Also, the technology departments in both counties are moving us closer to complete online court records and electronic filing of court documents."

Judge McGrady has been on the bench in the Sixth Circuit since August 1999, when then-Gov. Jeb Bush appointed him to fill a vacancy as a County Judge in Pinellas. He was elected for a full term without opposition in September 2000, and in December 2001, Bush again chose McGrady, this time for a vacant Circuit Judgeship. In 2004 and 2010, he was elected without opposition for full six-year terms. During his judicial service, he has been assigned to the Family Law Division, where he was administrative judge for Family Law, the Civil Division, and both misdemeanor and felony Criminal Divisions.

In 2011, American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) named McGrady Florida Jurist of the Year. Also in 2011, he received the William J. Castagna Award for Judicial Excellence from the Barney Masterson Inn of Court. In May 2009, the St. Petersburg Bar Association presented its Judicial Appreciation Award to McGrady.

He currently serves as Chair of the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges' Judicial Advisory Committee and has served on the Conference's Executive and Education committees. He also is a member of the Florida Trial Court Budget Commission (Executive Committee and Vice Chair of Funding Methodology Committee) and Pinellas County Business Technology Services Board. He is Chairman of the Consolidated Justice Information Services Board and serves as the state Courts' representative on the Executive Council of the Florida Clerk of Court Operations Corporation as the Courts' representative.