



Administrative Office of the Court

## The Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida

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## Anthony Rondolino Elected Chief Judge Once Again

CLEARWATER - Without an opponent, Circuit Judge Anthony Rondolino handily won a second term as the chief judge for the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

The election took place Feb. 22, 2017. The new term begins July 1, 2017, and ends June 30, 2019.



Judge Rondolino

“My main focus for the circuit is to maintain the public’s access to timely and fair judicial services during a period of increasing workloads and decreasing resources,” Judge Rondolino said.

“I will continue to serve on the statewide Trial Court Budget Commission and to work with the Florida Bar, State Attorney, Public Defender and Clerks to secure adequate funding that is essential to the operation of the court system,” Judge Rondolino said.

Judge Rondolino also said he planned to play a major role, along with the other stakeholders, in what is the biggest single project on the horizon — the construction of a new court building and the remodeling of existing facilities at our County Justice Center adjacent to the Pinellas jail.

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. Forty-five circuit judges and 24 county judges preside over court proceedings in seven locations and are supported by an administrative staff of approximately 235.

Judge Rondolino, who has been a judge since 1990, has served as a circuit judge longer than any other in the sixth circuit except for one, and he has played a role in roughly 300 jury trials, either during his 15 years as a lawyer or during his 25 years on the bench.

While a judge, he has presided over a wide range of civil cases, including accident claims, medical malpractice actions and three lengthy tobacco litigation trials. Judge Rondolino has also served as the administrative judge for the circuit’s civil division, and for the circuit’s criminal and family divisions as well.

Three times, the Florida Supreme Court appointed him an associate judge, to serve on the Second District Court of Appeals.

A native of Lexington, Kentucky, Judge Rondolino graduated with honors from the Florida State University School of Law in 1974, and shortly thereafter joined the local public defender’s office, rising to the position of chief assistant public defender in a mere five years.

He has taught courses as an adjunct professor at Stetson Law School, and has served on several boards and committees, including the Child Support Enforcement Coordinating Council, of which he was the chairman, and the Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task Force.

His awards include the St. Petersburg Bar Association’s Judicial Appreciation Award, the William Castagna Award for Judicial Excellence, and in 1988 he was named Outstanding Assistant Public Defender in Florida.