

Performance Report 2011

Circuit's Mission Statement

- Protect and declare the rights and responsibilities of the people;
- Uphold and interpret the law;
- Provide a forum for the just and peaceful resolution of legal and factual disputes;
- Provide meaningful, proactive solutions to chronic social, human and legal problems of those who come before the court in cases and disputes that lend themselves to such approaches.

Proactive • Conscientious • Resourceful

Administrative Office of the Courts

Staff's Guiding Principles

1. **Proactive** in our work for the Courts by always being prepared, anticipating challenges, initiating change, and demonstrating resilience.
2. **Conscientious** in our work for the Courts by providing excellent service, exhibiting integrity, diligence, and proficiency, and remaining genuine, respectful, and trustworthy to all.
3. **Resourceful** in our work for the Courts by being good stewards of our taxpayer-funded budget, conserving the Courts' resources, and continuously seeking ways to be cost-effective through innovation.

Credits and more information on staffers' photos, next page

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Performance Report – 2011


Cover Story



As the sun comes up, an egret – one of the many native wildlife species that share the area with our residents – begins its daily forage for food in the waters of John Chesnut Sr. Park in Clearwater.
– Courts Technology User Support Analyst **Angela Wright**



Water provides many recreation activities, such as the re-enactment of what was the nation's first scheduled commercial airline flight, which flew from St. Petersburg to Tampa in 1912.
– Courts Technology Officer **Ken Nelson**



Sun and water combine for what often is the most serene and scenic time of day, enjoyed by the many boaters who call this area home or the thousands of residents and visitors who frequently line the beaches for views such as this, from the coast of Pasco County.
– Pasco Administrative Services Assistant **Chris Hover**

Sun and water are ascendant factors for residents of Pasco and Pinellas counties, the area served by the Sixth Judicial Circuit. Similar to the sun's manifestation on water, this annual report reflects the Circuit's execution of its assignments during 2011.

While the report doesn't draw taxpayers and others with the beauty of a setting fall sun, it does display the Circuit's labors and effectiveness.

Similar to the sun's reflection off water, this chronicle of court activity mirrors the intensity, dedication and professionalism of approximately 250 support personnel, whose efforts enable the efficiency of the 69 judges who dutifully oversee justice in nine courthouses in the two counties.

When their workday is over, the Administrative Office of the Courts staff knows they'll always have sun and water to help them take full advantage of living on the Suncoast. Many of them keep their cameras nearby, frequently recording Mother Nature's contributions to their lifestyle.

The photos on the cover of this Performance Report and in larger versions here are just three examples of the quality level that their hobbies reach . . . just as the words on the following pages reveal the eminence of their professional lives.

Proactive • Conscientious • Resourceful

As part of a team-building and communications exercise, three guiding principles were adopted for the Administrative Office of the Courts staff, who provide invaluable expertise and assistance to the litigants, jurors, attorneys and other citizens of the Sixth Judicial Circuit. The listing on the cover page develops the philosophy and context of these guiding principles.



SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



Adult Drug Court

Mission

To provide eligible participants immediate, comprehensive and appropriate substance abuse treatment, aftercare and compliance monitoring in an effort to eliminate substance abuse and recidivism, thereby reducing crime, increasing community safety, and lowering costs of the criminal justice system.

New in 2011

Pinellas County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) was launched on Jan. 20, 2011, providing a path for diverting individuals with verified veteran status from the traditional criminal justice system into a specialized veteran-specific court. The Pinellas VTC operates to achieve a reduction in recidivism and substance abuse among substance-abusing veterans/offenders and to increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation through early, continuous and intense judicially supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, and use of appropriate sanctions and other rehabilitation services. Pinellas VTC is designed for all eligible offenders/veterans to receive substance abuse treatment from Bay Pines VA Health System, the local VA Substance Abuse Treatment Program (SATP). About 50 veterans were treated in the first year of operation.

Late in 2010, the Pasco County Adult Drug Court received a \$975,000, grant for up to three years to provide drug treatment to young adults (18-26) with prescription drug issues. During the 2011, the Court partnered with Alpha Counseling to provide the treatment and Westcare Gulfcoast-Florida to provide the required evaluation.

The Program

The Sixth Judicial Circuit Adult Drug Court is an 18 to 24-month, court supervised, comprehensive treatment court for eligible non-violent felony offenders. The Pinellas County

Adult Drug Court

Adult Drug Court was initiated in 2001, and the Pasco County Adult Drug Court was initiated in 2007. Both courts consist of a community partnership forged between the Sixth Judicial Circuit, State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Sheriff's Office, Florida Department of Corrections, local law enforcement, community substance abuse providers, and the Pinellas County and Pasco County Boards of County Commissioners.

The Adult Drug Court is a voluntary program that involves regular court appearances before a drug court judge. The drug court exists to provide drug court participants the opportunity to become productive, drug free members of the community.

In the Sixth Circuit, Adult Drug Courts serve a blended combination of pre-plea (pre-trial intervention), post-plea, post-adjudication, and probation violators. The treatment-based approach begins with an eligible defendant receiving a substance abuse assessment administered by a licensed treatment provider. Following the substance abuse evaluation and based on the result, the licensed and certified assessor makes a treatment recommendation to the court.

Defendants opting out of the drug court are transferred to another felony division for prosecution. Defendants who voluntarily enter the drug court are ordered to complete an appropriate outpatient or residential treatment level as determined by the court.

Frequent judicial review hearings enable the court to closely monitor a participant's progress in treatment and results of frequent random drug testing. Participants report directly to the drug court judge at these hearings. Based on success or setbacks, the drug court judge rewards compliance or sanctions non-compliance.

For defendants entering Adult Drug Court through pre-tri-

al intervention-diversion (first-time, nonviolent, 3rd degree felons), successful completion and graduation from the program will result in a dismissal of the charge. For defendants entering the drug court as a condition of probation (post-plea drug court), successful completion will result in a withhold of adjudication, and/or a reduced length of probation.

Objectives

- ❖ To reduce criminal recidivism.
- ❖ To provide cost effective alternatives to incarceration.
- ❖ To provide timely access to supportive treatment intervention.
- ❖ To increase quality of life for targeted offenders and their families.
- ❖ To break the cycle of addiction affecting drug court participants and their families.
- ❖ To promote community safety by addressing substance abuse factors contributing to local criminal activity.

Achievements

Number of participants accepted:

- ✓ Pasco – 303
- ✓ Pinellas – 709
- ✓ Pinellas Prison Diversion Pilot - 77

Active caseload at end of December:

- ✓ Pasco – 323

Adult Drug Court

- ✓ Pinellas – 1,090
- ✓ Pinellas Prison Diversion Pilot - 119

Recidivism rates as measured at 12 months and 24 months from graduation:

- ✓ Pasco – 12 months: 11.7 percent; 24 months: 22.7 percent
- ✓ Pinellas - The 12-month rate for 2010 graduates was 13.5%. The 24-month rate for 2009 graduates is unavailable.
- ✓ Pinellas Prison Diversion Pilot – Because of the newness of the program, full recidivism data is not yet available.

Re-arrest rates for active program participants (including for violations of probation):

- ✓ Pasco – 22 percent
- ✓ Pinellas – 4 percent
- ✓ Pinellas Prison Diversion Pilot – 7 percent

Retention rate measured by the total number of current enrollees plus the total number of graduates in the last three years divided by the total

number of participants ever enrolled in the last three years:

- ✓ Pasco – 75 percent
- ✓ Pinellas - 85 percent
- ✓ Pinellas Prison Diversion Pilot – 83 percent
- ✓ Graduates (Percent of graduates who retained or obtained employment and graduates who earned a GED or enrolled in GED program while in drug court):
- ✓ Pasco – 1255 graduates, 79% retained or obtained employment, 74 earned GED or enrolled in GED Program while in drug court.
- ✓ Pinellas – 413 graduates. 71% retained or obtained employment, 43 earned or enrolled in GED program while in drug court.
- ✓ Pinellas Prison Diversion Pilot – 12.8% retained or obtained employment, 1 enrolled in GED program while in drug court.

Number of drug-free babies born to participants

- ✓ Pasco – 9
- ✓ Pinellas – 14



SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



Behavioral Evaluations

Mission

The Juvenile Behavioral Evaluation Program supports the Unified Family Court in its decision-making process by providing information regarding the social, emotional, behavioral, and cognitive abilities of the child; the overall functioning of the family; information regarding the child's competency to understand court proceedings; and recommended sanctions based on treatment needs. The program also enhances the well-being of the individual, family and community by linking clients with community agencies for treatment as needed.

The Court Psychologist supports the Criminal Court in its decision-making process by providing competency-to-proceed-to-trial evaluations, mental status and treatment placement evaluations, and expert witness testimony for defendants appearing in Criminal Court.

New in 2011

No major changes to the program were made during 2011.

The Programs

Juvenile Behavioral Evaluation Program

The Juvenile Behavioral Evaluation Program supports the Unified Family Court in its decision making-process by providing the Court with psychological evaluations of youthful offenders and their families. Information is obtained from youth and parent interviews, school and mental health records, contacts with collateral sources including the Department of Juvenile Justice, treatment agencies, the Guardian ad Litem, and the Department of Children and Families.

Reports include information regarding the social, emotional, behavioral, and cognitive functioning of the youth; overall functioning of the family; violence risk; the youth's com-

Behavioral Evaluations

petence to proceed, if needed; and recommended sanctions based on treatment needs. Information is provided by report and through court testimony.

Attempts are made to identify unaddressed mental health, substance abuse, and family problems and to link youths and their families to appropriate community resources. Staff is active in mobilizing alternatives to incarceration, assisting with placements of very difficult youth, advocating for the needs of a particular youth among involved agencies, and in working with court committees to encourage and develop alternatives to incarceration.

The program serves delinquent and/or dependent youths from ages 7 to 18 and their families appearing before the Unified Family Court. All youths have been charged in Pinellas County and are referred by court order. Services are provided at the Criminal Justice Center, with some youths being seen in the Juvenile Detention Center in Clearwater.

Court Psychologist – Adult Criminal

The Court Psychologist provides competency-to-proceed to trial evaluations and expert witness testimony for defendants appearing in Criminal Court. The Court Psychologist also provides mental status and placement evaluations of adults in Criminal Court, making recommendations regarding necessary treatment needs. Many evaluations are provided on an immediate basis, thereby enhancing the efficiency and productivity of the Court.

Goals

- ❖ To provide the court with information through a report and/or

testimony that will help the court understand the unique problems of the individual and family and include identification of any of the following: mental health problems, mental retardation, academic and vocational issues, substance abuse, violence history and behavior problems.

- ❖ To make recommendations to the court regarding disposition and needed treatment interventions.
- ❖ To provide the court with evaluations of the child or adult defendant's competency to understand court proceedings and assist in their defense.
- ❖ To provide testimony to the court when needed.
- ❖ To provide consultation to families regarding test results and recommendations, to link families to appropriate resources, to assist with placement or advocacy as needed, or to provide crisis intervention.
- ❖ To provide training, consultation and collaboration to court personnel, including judges, attorneys, juvenile justice personnel, administrative staff, and community providers and agencies working with youth.

Achievements

Juvenile Behavioral Evaluation Program*

- ✓ Number of youth evaluated: 573
- ✓ Number of family psychosocial assessments completed: 492 families and 549 adults
- ✓ Number of juvenile competency evaluations completed: 63

(*based on fiscal year from Oct. 1, 2010 to Sept. 30, 2011.)

Behavioral Evaluations

Adult Criminal Court Psychologist

- ✓ Number of adult competency evaluations completed: 672
- ✓ Number of written reports provided to court: 177
- ✓ Number of Baker Act screenings performed: 18
- ✓ Number of cases for which expert testimony was provided: 275



SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



Case Management

Mission

Case Managers in the Sixth Judicial Circuit will screen and manage cases to promote timely disposition and maximize the efficient use of court resources to help deliver a high quality litigation process. Case Managers will ensure equal access to the courts by providing procedural and other information to the litigants and the public.

New in 2011

Pasco County, the Courts and Sunrise of Pasco County, Inc., collaborated to secure an Office on Violence Against Women Safe Haven grant to implement a supervised visitation center and safe exchange location in East Pasco. Services were initiated in July 2011.

Pinellas County, the Courts and local Domestic Violence service providers collaborated to secure an Office Against Women Domestic Violence Court grant to begin planning a fulltime Civil Division domestic violence court with a new compliance monitoring effort. The new court is expected to launch in January 2013.

Despite losing federal stimulus funding for the foreclosure case management project, the Chief Judge dedicated Case Management and Senior Judge resources to continue a scaled back version of the previous year's project. Effective July 1, 2011, Senior Judges were utilized to preside over hearings set to address Motions for Summary Judgment that were filed in pending residential foreclosure cases. Case managers assisted the senior judges by reviewing case files for compliance with the circuit's administrative orders on foreclosure matters, scheduling hearings upon request of the parties, attending summary judgment hearings to provide staff support to the Senior Judges, and handling paperwork generated from the court hearings.

The Program

The Supreme Court Committee on Trial Court Performance and Accountability defined case management as "the systematic administration and allocation of resources, including judicial

Case Management

attention and leadership, time, court staff, court technology, and the resources of parties and communities, directed to enhancement of the quality, timeliness, and efficiency of the judicial system. Case management develops and maintains reasonable and achievable policies and practices, identifies, collects and organizes critical case information, responds appropriately to characteristics of cases and parties, organizes movement of cases, ensures that necessary activities and events occur, marshals and prioritizes court and community resources, promotes reasonable and consistent expectations, provides critical information to judicial leaders and court managers, and promotes accountability and ongoing improvement.”¹

Components:

Family – Case managers assist judges by facilitating the flow of cases through the Family Law system, particularly dissolution of marriage cases, family law cases involving *pro se* litigants, and domestic violence. Work involves reviewing and monitoring cases, providing procedural and informational assistance to litigants, making referrals to legal assistance programs for persons seeking legal advice, noticing parties of missing items prior to hearings, checking service, setting case management conferences and other hearings, attending hearings as required, and preparing draft orders.

Unified Family Court – A team of case managers assist the Court to help ensure a single judge hears all family law matters involving one family when at least one of the cases

is a dependency or delinquency case. Related family matters include child support, domestic relations, domestic violence, delinquency and dependency.

Key elements of the Sixth Circuit’s procedures include an integrated information system for providing necessary case tracking and calendaring, the case management team that serves as a central intake unit, coordinated family mediation, community social service and self-help referrals, facilitated inter-agency communication to avoid duplication of services, and swift identification and handling of cases where persons may be at risk of family violence.

Staff also assists judges by facilitating the flow of cases through the juvenile system, particularly regarding juvenile release requests, adoptions stemming from termination of parental rights, and dependency actions. Work involves reviewing and monitoring cases, contacting parties regarding missing items prior to hearings, checking service, setting hearings, preparing draft orders, coordinating with other agencies, and reviewing pending caseloads for dispositional problems. An Alternative Sanctions Coordinator assists in case flow management of delinquency and related cases, serves as liaison between judiciary and delinquency-related agencies, and recommends alternative sanctions to incarceration as requested by the judiciary.

Criminal Administration – In Pinellas County, Criminal Administration staff processes divisional reassignments, informs each judge of mandates from the Second District Court of Appeal, codes the mainframe computer to reflect available calendar dates, and maintains a list of capital case assignments in the Criminal Division’s felony sections. Additionally, they process all appointments and reporting of doctors in cases where the mental capacity of the defendant is in question.

1 - Definition from Performance and Accountability Case Management Workshop, Trial Court Administrators Update, Performance and Accountability and Revision 7 Funding Methodology, Dec. 2, 2001.

Case Management

Other criminal related projects assigned to Criminal Administration are reported under Court Administration.

Civil Administration – (effective July 1, 2011) Case management staff provides calendaring support to the judges assigned to the foreclosure sections of the Civil Division. Case managers review all case files prior to Motions for Summary Judgment hearings and process paperwork prior to and after hearings. Staff reviews a monthly cases pending report for purposes of identifying appropriate cases for case management conferences and/or memorandums to the Clerk of Court for further action.

Goals

- ❖ Assist the Sixth Judicial Circuit to make more effective and efficient use of judges' and general masters' time.
- ❖ Help ensure equitable treatment of all litigants.
- ❖ Foster the timely disposition of cases.
- ❖ Provide procedural and other information to litigants, the public, and attorneys.
- ❖ Enable higher degrees of predictability and certainty in scheduling.
- ❖ Make effective use of limited resources, minimizing costs to litigants, the court and the public.
- ❖ Direct litigants/parties to appropriate court and community services and monitor progress as appropriate.
- ❖ Improve the delivery of court and court-related services through good interagency communications.
- ❖ Provide assistance to all Family Law judges with periodic reviews of quarterly time standards reports.

Achievements

Family Law

Domestic relations cases reviewed for hearing readiness

- ✓ Pasco – 1,648 cases were reviewed; of this number 1,186 were scheduled for case management conference.
- ✓ Pinellas – Family call center staff reviewed 2,424 cases; of this number 2,123 were set on General Magistrate calendars.

Telephone calls fielded regarding procedural information

- ✓ Pasco – 642
- ✓ Pinellas – The family law call center fielded 18,280 calls in 2011.

Case management conferences calendared, heard and number proceeding to final hearing at conference (Pasco County only)

- ✓ Pasco – 1,186 case management conferences were calendared, 4,117 draft orders were prepared, 231 cases were referred to the Clerk of Circuit Court for lack or prosecution, 471 cases were referred to the Clerk of Circuit Court for removal of pending status, and 63 cases were sent to Family Law judges for further procedural directive.

Domestic Violence Return Hearing Statistics (Pinellas County only)

Domestic & Repeat Violence Injunctions

- ✓ Domestic Violence Injunctions: 3,419
- ✓ Served: 2,554
- ✓ Not Served: 865

Case Management

Repeat Violence Injunction Total: 1,178

- ✓ Served: 824
- ✓ Not Served: 354

Dating Injunctions: 354

- ✓ Served: 238
- ✓ Not Served: 116

Sexual Violence Injunctions: 72

- ✓ Served: 46
- ✓ Not Served: 26

Pasco – While no case managers are specifically assigned to civil domestic violence (DV) in Pasco County, staff assisted in setting 91 Order-to-Show Cause hearings for Non-compliance with the Court's Order, 412 criminal misdemeanor cases were reviewed for companion civil DV cases, and staff attended 32 hearings on cases identified for possible assignment to the Unified Family Court in West Pasco.

Unified Family Court (Pinellas and West Pasco only)

Shelter hearings at which service referrals provided

- ✓ Pasco: 205
- ✓ Pinellas: 307

Families linked to community social services

- ✓ Pasco: 159 referrals
- ✓ Pinellas: 937 referrals

Cases researched for possible crossover

- ✓ Pasco: 7,558
- ✓ Pinellas: 5,264

Master cases created

- ✓ Pasco: 55 families with 120 cases reassigned
- ✓ Pinellas: 126 families involving 462 cases

Juvenile alternative sanction recommendations

- ✓ Pasco: N/A
- ✓ Pinellas: 361 judicial referrals with 126 alternative sanctions recommendations

Juvenile release requests reviewed

- ✓ Pasco: N/A
- ✓ Pinellas: 387 requests

Unified Family Court adoptions reviewed and prepared by program attorney

- ✓ Pasco: N/A
- ✓ Pinellas: 102 terminations of parental rights and 200 adoptions involving 219 children

Criminal Calendaring

Felony Division reassignments

- ✓ Pasco: 861 (includes drug court reassignments)
- ✓ Pinellas: 1,991 (excludes drug court reassignments)

Misdemeanor Division reassignments made

- ✓ Pasco: 111 (includes criminal traffic)
- ✓ Pinellas: 412

Sanity/competency doctors appointed

- ✓ Pasco: 39
- ✓ Pinellas: 38

Doctor reports sealed and filed

- ✓ Pasco: N/A
- ✓ Pinellas: 823

Civil Foreclosure: July 1, 2011 through Dec. 31, 2011

Foreclosure calendars scheduled

- ✓ Pasco: 24
- ✓ Pinellas: 25

Hearings scheduled

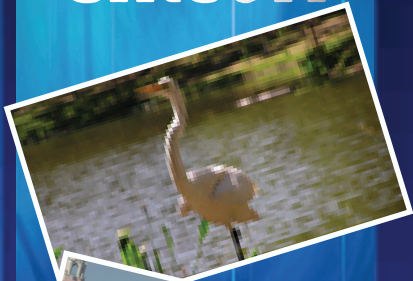
- ✓ Pasco: 1,058
- ✓ Pinellas: 1,279

Summary Judgment hearings held

- ✓ Pasco: 827
- ✓ Pinellas: 884



SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



General Magistrates & Hearing Officers

Mission

To make findings and recommend rulings by conducting judicial reviews, evidentiary hearings, temporary hearings, pre-trial matters, post-judgment enforcement and status conferences, guardianship inventories, accountings and plans as directed by the Court

and

To provide parties with an expedited forum for the resolution of legal matters while preserving their Constitutional right to due process

New in 2011

The Truancy Magistrate Program, which provided contract truancy magistrates to conduct hearings with students in 11 middle schools, was defunded by the Juvenile Welfare Board. The Truancy Magistrate Program was designed to help bridge the service continuum between early diversion efforts and later court appearances for chronic student absenteeism.

The Program

The Sixth Judicial Circuit utilizes general magistrates and hearing officers in multiple court divisions, including family, child support enforcement, dependency, probate/guardianship, and civil traffic to assist the courts in efficiently and effectively administering justice. These quasi-judicial officers provide invaluable assistance in speeding up the timeliness of case processing.

Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officers are attorneys appointed by the Chief Judge to conduct proceedings where the Department of Revenue is a party in a child support action. The Child Support Hearing Officers hear establishment of support, enforcement of child support matters and other post-judgment matters. The Hearing Officers have author-

General Magistrates & Hearing Officers

ity to issue process, administer oaths, require the production of documents and conduct hearings for the purpose of taking evidence. Hearing Officers take testimony and establish a record. The Hearing Officer evaluates the evidence and promptly makes a recommended order to the court setting forth findings of fact. Upon receipt of a recommended order the court generally enters the order promptly.

Probate Magistrates assist the probate judges by conducting incapacity hearings and restoration hearings, and reviewing the mandatory annual reports submitted by guardians. The court also employs general magistrates to hear all petitions for involuntary placement under Florida's Mental Health Act, commonly known as the Baker Act. Hearings are conducted weekly at six receiving facilities in Pinellas and four in Pasco. Magistrates in both counties hear involuntary placement hearings under Chapter 397 (Drug or Alcohol Abuse). Staff to the probate magistrates includes a non-attorney guardianship monitor in each county. Monitors investigate the well-being of the ward and the responsible distribution of the ward's assets upon order of the court.

Family Law General Magistrates conduct any proceeding referred to them by a Family Law judge. The General Magistrate is empowered to administer oaths and conduct hearings, which may include the taking of evidence. The majority of the referrals involve *pro se* (self represented) litigants who are seeking dissolution of marriage. The General Magistrates also hear issues relating to modification and enforcement, parenting time, equitable distribution, alimony, child support, and paternity. Since many of these hearings involve *pro se* litigants, a greater expenditure of time is required to explain court procedure. After conducting a full hearing, the General Magistrate makes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations for relief for the review of the judge. If there are no ob-

jections to the General Magistrate's report, the court enters an order adopting the recommended relief.

Dependency General Magistrates provide direct assistance to the Unified Family Court judges by hearing judicial reviews in dependency proceedings. The purpose of judicial reviews is to examine the placement and status of a child (ren) and monitor the progress of the case plan of the parent(s) who are working on meeting the requirements imposed by the Department of Children & Families in their plan, approved by the Court, in order to be successfully reunified with their child (ren). The Dependency General Magistrates make findings of fact and provide recommendations to the court, which are generally entered by the court as an order, if there are no objections.

Contract Civil Traffic Infraction Hearing Officers hear and consider all civil traffic infraction proceedings, including parking ticket hearings. They preside over calendars scheduled in the evening at traffic court locations throughout Pasco and Pinellas counties. These contract hearing officers do not hear cases involving any accidents resulting in injury or death and they do not hear any criminal traffic offenses.

Goals

- ❖ To provide efficient, expeditious resolution of cases without sacrificing due process
- ❖ To provide more timely court access to litigants
- ❖ To assist the judges in disposing of ever-increasing court caseloads
- ❖ To assist in the development of divisional policy and procedure
- ❖ To provide safeguards to citizens, who through illness and incapacity are under the Court's supervision (Guardianship/Probate)

General Magistrates & Hearing Officers

Achievements

Child Support Enforcement

Hearing Type	Hearings Scheduled	Hearings Held	Recommended Orders Signed
Establishment	6,547	6,285	6,450
Modification	1,926	1,810	1,799
Enforcement	2,184	2,147	2,442
Other *	2,261	2,141	2,194

* Note: Other involves lien hearings, respondents' motions, and conflict hearings.

Guardianship/Probate (includes guardianship monitoring)
Hearings conducted

- ✓ Incapacity – 133 hearings (Pinellas only)
- ✓ Suggestion of Capacity – 13 hearings (Pinellas only)
- ✓ Marchman Act – 25 (Pinellas and Pasco)

- ✓ Emergency Temporary Guardianships – 24 hearings (Pinellas only)
- ✓ Chapter 415 (Adult Protective Services) – 1 hearing (Pinellas only)
- ✓ Chapter 393 (Developmental Disabilities) – 23 hearings (Pinellas only)
- ✓ Baker Act Hearings - 1,873 (Pinellas and Pasco)
- ✓ Guardianship inventories, accounting and plans reviewed - 3,193.
- ✓ Guardianship monitor investigations completed – 50
- ✓ Attorney and guardian fee petitions reviewed – 1,762
- ✓ Credit and criminal background investigations reviewed – 214 (Pasco only)

General Magistrates – Family and Dependency

- ✓ Family hearings conducted – 6,987
- ✓ Dependency judicial reviews conducted – 3,595 Pinellas only

Contract Civil Traffic Infraction Hearing Officers

- ✓ Hearings conducted – 184



SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



Juvenile Diversion

Mission

To provide intervention, prevention, and diversion services to at-risk youth and juvenile offenders and to relieve overburdened juvenile courts by providing non-judicial dispositions of lesser juvenile offenses.

New in 2011

Three years after a large collaborative effort was launched in Pinellas County to begin to address ways to break the cycle of juvenile justice involvement of the community's youth and two years after the formal launch of the Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Project (JAAP), the JAAP program is a proven success. With successful completion rates of more than 86%, recidivism rates of only 7%, and a continued strong collaborative, the JAAP program now has consistent outcomes that have significantly addressed breaking the recidivist cycle early on – at the first misdemeanor offense.

Significant success is being noted in the efforts to promote public health, expand juvenile justice diversion efforts, improve interagency communications in the interest of juveniles, gather reliable data for use in juvenile justice system planning, decrease juvenile detention use, and lower the incidence of Pinellas juveniles entering the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems and beginning an arrest record after a first-time juvenile misdemeanor.

The State Attorney's diversion program, COMPASS, which was one of the diversion programs offered by the JAAP program, was discontinued in August, 2011. Diversion programs continuing in JAAP include Juvenile Arbitration and the PRODIGY program.

JAAP relies on the Court's Juvenile Arbitration Program to screen for eligibility, collect data and statistics, and provide case management and diversion programming for approximately 75% of the direct diverted youth.

Juvenile Diversion

The Programs

Youth who are new to the criminal justice system, and/or who have committed non-violent offenses, are provided a second chance through the Circuit's Juvenile Arbitration Program. Juveniles who are referred to this program and who successfully complete it either have adjudication of the offense withheld or earn a complete dismissal of charges. Many also participate on a non-arrest diversionary basis. Acceptance into the program is contingent upon consent from the victims in the case.

The program's aims are to divert eligible juvenile offenders from formal court proceedings in order to reduce caseload and allow the Court to concentrate its efforts on the most serious juvenile offenders. Another major goal of the program is to closely monitor juvenile progress and follow-through to prevent future offenses.

Components of the Program

Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Project – Direct Diversion

– The goal is to break the cycle of juvenile justice involvement and an arrest record for youths who commit first time misdemeanor offenses. The mission is to promote public health, expand juvenile justice diversion efforts, improve interagency communications in the interest of juveniles, gather reliable data for use in juvenile justice system planning, decrease juvenile detention use, and lower the incidence of Pinellas juveniles entering the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems.

Eight key stakeholders in the criminal and juvenile justice arena in Pinellas County entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, which outlines each participating agency's commitment and collaborative role in the JAAP-Direct Diversion

program. These collaborative partners are the State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Clerk's Office, Administrative Office of the Courts, Department of Juvenile Justice, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Operation Par, Inc., and the Prodigy Program.

The role of Administrative Office of the Courts staff is to conduct a check for prior offenses in the Judicial Inquiry System (JIS), Consolidated Justice Information System (CJIS), and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The affidavits of any juvenile found to have a prior misdemeanor or felony record are returned to the Clerk's Office for normal case processing. Juvenile affidavits that reflect no prior misdemeanor or felony offenses or no prior diversions are disseminated to collaborative partner diversion programs or Juvenile Arbitration. Juvenile Arbitration Program staff follow-up on diverted cases for dispositions. Juveniles who are referred to a diversion program and fail to complete are submitted to the Clerk's Office for normal filing procedures and court processing.

Juvenile Arbitration is for first-time offenders. Upon referral to the program, a hearing is held and "sanctions" are assigned, which the juvenile must complete. Sanctions may include restitution, a letter of apology, an essay assignment, school attendance and behavior improvements, counseling assessment, community service, and/or educational classes. The program offers more than 20 different classes, such as Conflict Resolution, Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Awareness and Prevention, To Catch a Thief, Maximum Security Jail Tour, Judicial Education, Truancy Related Law, Medical Examiner's Class, Career Orientation, Removing Intoxicated Drivers and Controlling Abuse of Drug Prescriptions, and the Ambassador program. Follow-up hearings are held at the end of six to eight weeks to determine if all requirements were successfully met.

Juvenile Diversion

STOP (Service and Treatment for Offender Prevention), a more rigorous component, is similar in design but is geared for repeat misdemeanor offenders and third degree felony offenders (excluding offenses involving personal violence, use of a weapon or Grand Theft Auto). Additional sanctions include 50 hours of community service and mandatory weekly phone contact. The program lasts approximately 120 days and involves an additional mid-point hearing to assess the juvenile's progress within the program.

Juvenile Diversion Drug Court is for juveniles who have been charged with misdemeanor or felony drug charges or who are assigned diversion but have exhibited substance abuse issues. Participants will be required to submit to drug assessment and random urinalysis. A hearing master conducts the initial hearing, and appropriate sanctions are applied. Hearings are held monthly or more often as needed to monitor the progress of participants. Juvenile Diversion Drug Court is offered in Pinellas County.

In Teen Court, the roles of clerk, bailiff, prosecuting and defense attorneys and jury are held by high school student volunteers. A hearing officer serves as the Teen Court judge. Upon conclusion of a trial, the teen defendant is sentenced to appropriate sanctions as described above. If using a grand jury format, the Teen Court jury will directly ask questions to the teen offender. Again, the jury deliberates and issues a Teen Court jury verdict.

Truancy Teen Court is a Teen Court program that provides early intervention through the Teen Court process for students that have established a pattern of non-attendance and unexcused absences (5-15 days). Truancy Teen Court operates in the same way as the standard Teen Court, and hearings are held using the grand jury format. Truancy Teen Court is avail-

able in Pinellas County.

AIM (At-Risk Intervention and Motivation) is a voluntary summer prevention program that provides education and community referrals for siblings of Juvenile Arbitration defendants, truants, siblings of Department of Juvenile Justice-involved youths, or other at-risk youths in an effort to prevent participants from ever entering into the juvenile justice system.

Goals

- ❖ Provide an opportunity for all eligible first-time misdemeanor juveniles to avoid a juvenile record
- ❖ To provide an efficient and cost effective diversionary alternative to formal judicial proceedings through the Teen Court program.
- ❖ To hold juvenile offenders accountable for their actions.
- ❖ To provide juvenile offenders with educational classes, counseling and community services, enabling them to make positive choices.
- ❖ To circumvent the progression of increased criminal behavior and to reduce recidivism.
- ❖ To decrease juvenile detention center use

Juvenile Diversion Achievements on Next Page

Juvenile Diversion

Achievements

JAAP

Diversion Total Total Participants

✓ Pinellas 837

✓ Pasco N/A

Referral Breakdown By Program*

✓ COMPASS (State Attorney's Office) 78

✓ FIRST OFFENDER (Juvenile Arbitration Program) 733

✓ PRODIGY 26

* Pinellas County only

Successful Completion Rates by Program

✓ Juvenile Arbitration Program 84%

✓ COMPASS – Retail Theft 100%

✓ Prodigy 78%

✓ Total 86%

Non-Recidivism Rates by County

✓ Pinellas 93%

✓ Pasco N/A

Other – In 2011, the JAAP Direct Diversion Program served 38 percent African American, 52 percent White, 7 percent Hispanic, 2 percent Asian, and 1 percent

Other juveniles. Minorities represented 48% of youths served through the Juvenile Arrest Avoidance project.

Juvenile Diversion

Total Participants in Juvenile Diversion

✓ Pinellas 2,272

✓ Pasco 774

Referral Breakdown By Program

✓ Juvenile Arbitration – Pinellas 1,285

✓ Juvenile Arbitration – Pasco 409

✓ STOP – Pinellas 351

✓ STOP – Pasco 76

✓ Juvenile Diversion Drug Court – Pinellas 326

✓ Juvenile Diversion Drug Cases – Pasco 134

✓ Teen Court – Pinellas 310

✓ Teen Court – Pasco 155

✓ Truancy Teen Court – Pinellas 245

✓ Truancy Teen Court – Pasco N/A

✓ AIM – Pinellas 134

✓ AIM – Pasco N/A

Non-Recidivism Rates – Juvenile Arbitration

✓ Pinellas 97%

✓ Pasco 89%

Juveniles Referred by Juvenile Arbitration to outside counseling services and percentage completing these services

Referred Completed

✓ Pinellas 1,008 90%

✓ Pasco 200 81%

Community Services Hours served by Juvenile Arbitration participants

✓ Pinellas Approx. 50,820

✓ Pasco 13,815

Student Volunteers Participating as Teen Court members

✓ Pinellas 161

✓ Pasco 281

Teen Truancy Program

Truancy Reduction for those who successfully completed the program

✓ Pinellas 93%

✓ Pasco N/A

AIM Participants

✓ Pinellas 134

✓ Pasco N/A



SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



Pinellas Law Library

Mission

The Pinellas County Law Library provides access to timely, reliable and accurate legal information in a format that can be understood and used by the greatest number of citizens.

New in 2011

The Law Library Board of Trustees hosted the first Law Library Open House on Oct. 11, 2011. This well-attended event informed the public and the legal community about the Law Library and services offered. Chief Judge Thomas McGrady and Library Chair Judge George Jirotko spoke briefly about the history and purpose of the Law Library and the need to augment the current revenue stream in order to keep the print collection and services stable. Considered a success, the Law Library Open House will be an annual event held in October.

The Program

The Pinellas County Law Libraries have been providing access to legal information necessary for the effective functioning of the justice system since 1950. Today, the remaining Law Library is administered by Court Administration for the Sixth Judicial Circuit. The Chief Judge consults with the Board of Trustees with respect to Law Library services, budget and planning.

The Pinellas County Law Library provides access to legal research resources for the residents of Pinellas County at its location in the Old Historic Courthouse in Clearwater.

Library patrons include attorneys, judges, paralegals, court reporters, students, law clerks, court and county staff, the business community, and the general public. Statistics demonstrate that the general public is a major user and receives the most service from Law Library staff. The Law Library strives to provide equal access to the courts through a strong

Pinellas Law Library

collection of legal materials in print and electronic format to better serve all of the citizens of Pinellas County.

The Law Library collection development policy follows the County Law Library Standards approved by the American Association of Law Libraries. Holding the line on the Law Library collection expenditures in a climate of decreasing revenue while costs escalate 12 – 20 percent annually presents challenges. The consolidated book collection of the only public access law library in Pinellas County should see minimal changes for the current year. Contrary to popular notions, books continue to dominate legal publishing. Electronic databases such as Westlaw and Shepard's complement the print resources and are not considered a total replacement for these research materials.

Goals

- ❖ Promote trust and confidence in the judicial system by providing an access point for equal justice under the law.
- ❖ Provide access to those sources of legal information that can

assist any interested citizen of Pinellas County to determine their legal rights and responsibilities.

- ❖ Select and maintain the collection in accordance with the County Law Library Standards of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Achievements

- ✓ The law library served an average of 150 walk-in patrons and 50 telephone inquiries per week.
- ✓ The general public represented 66 percent of patrons served.
- ✓ Thirteen percent of *pro se* (self-represented) litigants were referred to other services, such as the Clerk's Self-Help Center and the lawyer referral service.



SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Mediation

Mission Statement

To provide the court with an alternative mechanism for the resolution of legal disputes leading to early disposition of cases, resulting in savings in time and costs to the litigants and to the court.

New in 2011

In the latter part of the year, the Sixth Judicial Circuit revised its suspended mandated mediation program for residential foreclosure cases so that the program could be restarted in the revised format early in 2012. The revisions are targeted more directly at property owners who are most likely to benefit, while making the procedures more user-friendly and effective. The goal is to continue to efficiently move foreclosure cases through the courts in Pasco and Pinellas counties.

Mediation Managers, Inc. (MMI), which contracts to provide mediation services for foreclosure cases, longer automatically offers mediation in every case.

Under the new plan, mediation is automatically be offered in all residential foreclosure case in which:

- Defendants have been personally served with notice of the foreclosure action;
- Notice of foreclosure was by publication, and the defendant responded within 120 days of service.

Overview

To help make mediation more accessible to all parties, the Sixth Circuit implemented a mediation model that provides paid family, dependency and county civil mediation services to certain parties.

Family Mediation involves many marriage dissolution issues, such as property division, shared or sole parental responsibility, child support, custody and visitation issues.

Mediation

Parties may choose a mediator privately and at an agreed upon fee. Parties whose combined annual gross income is under \$100,000.00 may request court provided mediation, and if deemed eligible, pay a \$60 or \$120 fee per party. Mediators are assigned on a rotation basis from a State Court System list of certified mediators. Contract mediators are paid by the State of Florida.

Dependency Mediation involves cases in which there is an allegation of abuse, abandonment and/or neglect of a child by one or both parents. The goal of this type of mediation is to work out case plans that would help reunite families sooner. No fee is charged for dependency mediation.

Small claims cases, involving amounts between \$1 and \$5,000 may also be mediated. These issues include situations such as money due, landlord-tenant disputes, breach of contract, consumer claims, etc. Small claims mediation is used mostly in the pre-trial phase of the case and is provided at no cost to the participants.

County civil cases, where the amount in dispute is \$5,000 to \$15,000, are also referred for mediation. These cases can involve issues such as negligence, money due, real estate, breach of contract, etc. If a judge determines that the parties do not have the ability to pay for a private mediator, a court-provided mediator can be utilized for a fee of \$60 per party.

Goals

- ❖ To effectively process all cases referred to the mediation program by judges in a timely manner and ensure compliance with all Florida Statutes and Rules, local rules and administrative orders pertaining to mediation.

- ❖ To assure access to court provided mediation for eligible persons requesting it.
- ❖ To provide procedural information, invoices, instructions for 65 court contracted mediators in family, dependency and small claims.
- ❖ To maintain statistics necessary to ensure operational accountability.
- ❖ To assist prospective mediators in achieving certification by offering mentoring opportunities to observe and co-mediate cases under the supervision of Florida Supreme Court certified mediators.

Achievements

- ✓ Court-ordered mediations *

	Ordered	Held
Small Claims	2,066	2,066
County Civil	31	30
Family	1,490	1,348
Dependency	318	332
Circuit Civil	3809	not reported
Arbitration	8	not reported

** Numbers are for fiscal year ending June 30, 2011*

- ✓ Settlement Rates (full or partial settlement)

County Civil – 48%
Family – 52%
Dependency – 70%
Circuit Civil – 42%
Arbitration - 30%

- ✓ Percentage of model mediation cases that utilized court provided mediation

Family – 65%
County court – 25%

- ✓ Model mediation fees collected in fiscal 2011: \$223,351



SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



Court Reporting

Mission

To create and preserve the record in all Sixth Judicial Circuit court proceedings required to be reported at public expense.

New in 2011

No major changes were made during the calendar year in Court Reporting operations and procedures.

The Program

Reporting of court proceedings is the contemporaneous verbatim recording of words spoken in court [and notation of non-verbal events]. Verbatim recording allows for the immediate utilization of words spoken in court, the preservation of those words and, when necessary, their timely and accurate transcription. Transcripts or other media are used by attorneys, litigants, judges, and the public to review events in court proceedings. This provides public accountability and facilitates due process through appellate review.

– Trial Court Performance and Accountability Final Report and Recommendations, December 2002

Court reporting serves a critical function in Florida's judicial system because meaningful appellate review relies on an accurate record of what transpired at the trial court. The transcript of the words spoken in open court is essential to attorneys to prepare arguments for appeal, as well as for the court.

Court Reporting Goals and Achievements on next page

Court Reporting

Goals and Achievements

Goals

- ❖ To ensure all records of court proceedings are accurate and of high quality.
- ❖ To cover all court proceedings by the appropriate court recording method.
- ❖ To timely submit high-quality records for appellate review.
- ❖ To expend court reporting funding resources prudently.

Court Reporting Hours

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011	Stenographers	Central Digital Reporting	Local Digital Reporting*
Circuit criminal	3,675.75	13,435.5	0
County criminal	30.5	13,186.75	0
Dependency	170.75	3,172.5	0
Delinquency	34.75	2,747.75	0
Baker/Marchman/Guardianship	0	69.5	126.75
Domestic Violence Injunctions	6.25	2,140.25	1,190.5
Child Support Enforcement			
Magistrates & Hearing Officers	4.5	1,924.5	0
Other Case Types	0	58.75	4.25
TOTAL	3,922.5	36,735.5	1,321.5
TOTAL of All Hours: 41,979.5			

* Local digital recording involves one reporter monitoring one courtroom; in central recording, each reporter monitors two or more courtrooms."

Original Transcript Pages

	To Judges Or Court Staff	To Other Government Entity or Private Party		To State Attorney		To Court To Public Defender		Appointed Counsel		Indigent For Costs		Regional Counsel	
		Non Appeal	Appeal	Non Appeal	Appeal	Non Appeal	Appeal	Non Appeal	Appeal	Non Appeal	Appeal	Non Appeal	Appeal
Circuit Criminal	6,394	6,860	1,879	5,696	355	3,753	53,325	3,386	29,312	334	4,233	203	10,549
County Criminal	250	2,088	244	429	1,981	996	5,495	8	371	6	1,220	80	733
Dependency	1,246	571	852	471	-	-	129	106	3,357	171	342	199	3,850
Delinquency	209	193	-	-	171	238	2,121	-	-	-	-	-	43
Baker/Marchman/Guardianship	-	752	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Domestic Violence Injunctions	35	3,231	55	124	-	225	-	-	-	31	-	-	-
Child Support Enforcement													
Magistrates & Hearing Officers	54	2,203	-	10	-	13	-	37	-	46	-	-	-
Other Case Types	-	193	-	31	-	264	787	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8,188	16,091	3,078	6,761	2,507	5,489	61,857	3,537	33,040	588	5,795	482	15,175

TOTAL of All Pages: 162,588



SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



Administrative Office of the Courts

Mission

The purpose of the Administrative Office of the Courts is to improve the effectiveness and ensure the fairness of the judicial system by:

- *Functioning collaboratively with judicial leaders in fashioning court policy and specific action plans;*
- *Providing court users with alternative, non-adjudicatory options for the fair and expeditious resolution of any case unlikely to proceed to trial;*
- *Minimizing direct and indirect costs to court users and to the taxpayer;*
- *Shortening time to disposition for litigants by assisting judges with effective case flow management;*
- *Preparing and adhering to budgets and personnel policies;*
- *Planning and fostering delivery of reliable information systems; and*
- *Fostering cooperation among the various components and participants of the justice system.*

New in 2011

As Judges guided the Court through significant achievements, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) staff provided assistance and administrative support. Included in these Judge-led projects were:

- ◇ A Drug Court ceremony that featured James Taylor and the graduation of more than 100 Pinellas County defendants;
- ◇ The creation of a veterans section in Pinellas County Drug Court;
- ◇ The conception and initiation of the acclaimed Ambassador Program in Pasco County Drug Court;
- ◇ Eligibility changes for the Z Division of Pinellas Drug Court, resulting in more post-adjudication treatment opportunities for addicts who otherwise would end up in prison;

Administrative Office of the Courts

◇ Coordination by Family Court judges of training for a new group of Guardians ad Litem, who provide needed assistance by informing the Court as to the best interests of children involved in domestic disputes.

AOC's Administrative Services Division was instrumental in a cooperative agreement (grant) from the Office on Violence Against Women, leading to planning for a program that will emphasize compliance with Domestic Violence court orders.

AOC staff participated in the preparation of programming activities after the Pasco Board of County Commissioners approved planning and development of a new criminal courthouse next to the jail in Land O' Lakes.

Pinellas County and the Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) Policy Board entered into an agreement with Tyler Technologies for installation of its Odyssey Courts & Justice Solution case management system. To be known as Justice Consolidated Case Management System (CCMS), the new system will serve all court divisions, replacing the outdated CJIS System. The first phases of the transition process are to be completed in 2012.

The Program

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration provide for the appointment of a Circuit Court Administrator. In the Sixth Judicial Circuit, the Court Administrator – more commonly known as

the Trial Courts Administrator serves – as the chief executive officer of the Court. The Administrator is responsible for:

- Administrative supervision of all court staff;
- Preparation and execution of all budget and fiscal matters;
- Court facility planning and day-to-day operations;
- Court communication systems;
- Implementation of court technology and information systems;
- Preparation and execution of grants;
- Case-flow management;
- Court statistics;
- Long-term planning and resource allocation studies;
- Court program implementation and supervision;
- Coordination and evaluation of court security and emergency preparedness;
- Personnel policies and rules;
- Liaison with the Bar and with local and state agencies;
- Media relations;
- Public information;
- Special projects as assigned by the Court.

The Trial Courts Administrator reports to the Chief Judge and is responsible to the Court for the effective and efficient administration of all non-legal functions of the courts. This is the circuit's chief administrative position, which entails many detailed processes, varied responsibilities and systemic, long-range planning. Staff members of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, who are assigned primarily to the Administrative office of the courts, have adopted the enclosed model to help describe those things

Administrative Office of the Courts

for which they are accountable. Goals have also been noted for each major category and senior staff report on significant objectives for the calendar year as a means of tracking performance.

Goals

Administrative Services/Human Resources

- ❖ Conduct quarterly supervisors training;
- ❖ Conduct retirement seminar for judges;
- ❖ Coordinate and conduct semiannual employee relations programs;
- ❖ Conduct diversity training for all new hires;
- ❖ Develop and conduct diversity training refresher course for current staff;
- ❖ Continue to move personnel files to Docushare.
- ❖ Update Human Resources Operation Manual
- ❖ Administrative Services/Criminal Administration
- ❖ Assist in implementation of Global 360 (or alternative) imaging system and Odyssey Case Management system for Criminal Division;
- ❖ Assist in planning and presentation of Criminal Professionalism Seminar in June;
- ❖ Improve process of capturing/maintaining statistics for competency issues;
- ❖ Continue to arrange senior judge coverage and provide administrative support to the senior judges;
- ❖ Continue to act as liaison with other court related agencies;
- ❖ Expand role as a resource to judges and judicial assistants with Criminal Administration issues;

- ❖ Assist criminal administrative judge with trial coverage communication;
- ❖ Provide any needed input or assistance in selection of new "case management" system.

Fiscal Office

- ❖ Learn new Pinellas County budget software;
- ❖ Monitor expenditure of state budget allocations;
- ❖ Submit budget amendments / transfers as needed;
- ❖ Develop budget for Pinellas County allocations;
- ❖ Oversee expenditures Pasco County budget allocations;
- ❖ Develop budgets for Behavioral Evaluation and Truancy Magistrate programs;
- ❖ Provide budget detail for FY 2012 State Budget as requested;
- ❖ Monitor collection of revenues for State and Counties;
- ❖ Continue to improve Cost Recovery efforts.

Public Information Office

- ❖ Coordinate media activity involving high profile cases within the circuit;
- ❖ Continue to develop positive, trusting and respectful relations between Circuit judiciary/staff and media by providing prompt responses to queries and coordinating appropriate contact of Chief Judge and others with reporters and editorial board members;
- ❖ Develop & coordinate community outreach through coordination of special events, management of Speakers Bureau, contact with schools and oversight of various

Administrative Office of the Courts

video projects;

- ❖ Assist judges and staff as needed in alerting and responding to media;
- ❖ Design, edit and arrange website publication of 2010 Performance Report;
- ❖ Provide requested assistance with communications projects;
- ❖ Ensure proper response to all public records requests, working with court counsel's office when necessary for proper legal responses.

Achievements

Trial Court Administrator's Office

- ✓ When funding was eliminated for foreclosure case management, a contingency plan was implemented to continue using a combination of staff and temporary case managers to assist senior judges with Motion for Summary Judgment hearings in foreclosure cases;
- ✓ The jury assembly room in the St. Petersburg Judicial Building was redesigned for use as a functional courtroom when it is not being used for potential jurors;
- ✓ Assistance was provided to the Chief Judge for the revival of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Professional Committee.

Administrative Services and Human Resources

- ✓ Quarterly supervisors training included an in-service class on Human Resource Practices;
- ✓ A retirement seminar was conducted for judges;

- ✓ All new hires received diversity training;
- ✓ Supervisors training was effected each quarter;
- ✓ Updated Human Resources Operation Manual.

Fiscal Office

- ✓ Established proficiency in new Pinellas County's new budget software;
- ✓ Monitored revenue collections for State of Florida, Pasco County and Pinellas County;
- ✓ Continued to improve Cost Recovery efforts.

Administrative Services and Criminal Administration

- ✓ Assisted in planning and presentation of Criminal Professionalism Seminar;
- ✓ Assisted in the implementation of Global 360 imaging system and Odyssey Case Management;
- ✓ Improved process of capturing/maintaining statistics for competency issues;
- ✓ Continued to arrange senior judge coverage and provide administrative support to the senior judges.

Public Information Office (PIO)

- ✓ As the Circuit's liaison, the PIO coordinated all requested services to the Ninth Judicial Circuit staff and judge, who transferred jury selection from Orlando to Pinellas County for the nation's most-watched criminal trial in 2011;
- ✓ Provided access and oversight for largest influx of national and international media in Circuit's history, in Pinellas County for coverage of the above-mentioned jury

Administrative Office of the Courts

selection;

- ✓ Managed media access and coverage for three other high profile trials and for hearings and preparations for two other cases scheduled for trial in 2012;
- ✓ In response to more than 50 requests, speakers and/or courthouse tours were provided to schools, civic clubs, community organizations, etc. ;
- ✓ Directed planning and conduct of 8th annual Pinellas Adoption Day;
- ✓ Coordinated second annual July 4th reminder project, featuring brief essays on the personal thoughts by judges and staff members on judicial independence;
- ✓ Worked with Pinellas County Communications Department to progress toward a 2012 launch of a redesigned Internet site.



SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



Expense & Funding

Operational Costs Paid by State, County Governments

Courts in Florida operate without checkbooks. All costs associated with operating the Third Branch of government are borne by the State of Florida and the counties covered by the courts.

Under Florida Constitution Revision 7 that was approved by voters in 1998 and implemented in 2004, the State funds critical elements of the Courts, and county governments provide facilities and cover the costs of operating those facilities.

Less than 1% of Florida's annual budget finances the court system for the entire state.

In addition to the statutorily required funding of facilities, some counties choose to fund local option programs that are developed to deal with issues that are relevant to that particular community.

In the Sixth Judicial Circuit, bills and invoices go through a local authorization procedure before being submitted to the State, Pasco County or Pinellas County, where they go through another rigorous approval process before being paid.

The Circuit enjoys a good relationship with the administrative and executive branches of the two counties, which have chosen to fund some specific programs that address societal issues, such as teen diversion and treatment for Drug Court defendants. Such court programs are designed to save counties the larger costs associated with imprisoning non-violent offenders.

Specifics about Sixth Judicial Circuit funding begin on the next page.

Expense & Funding

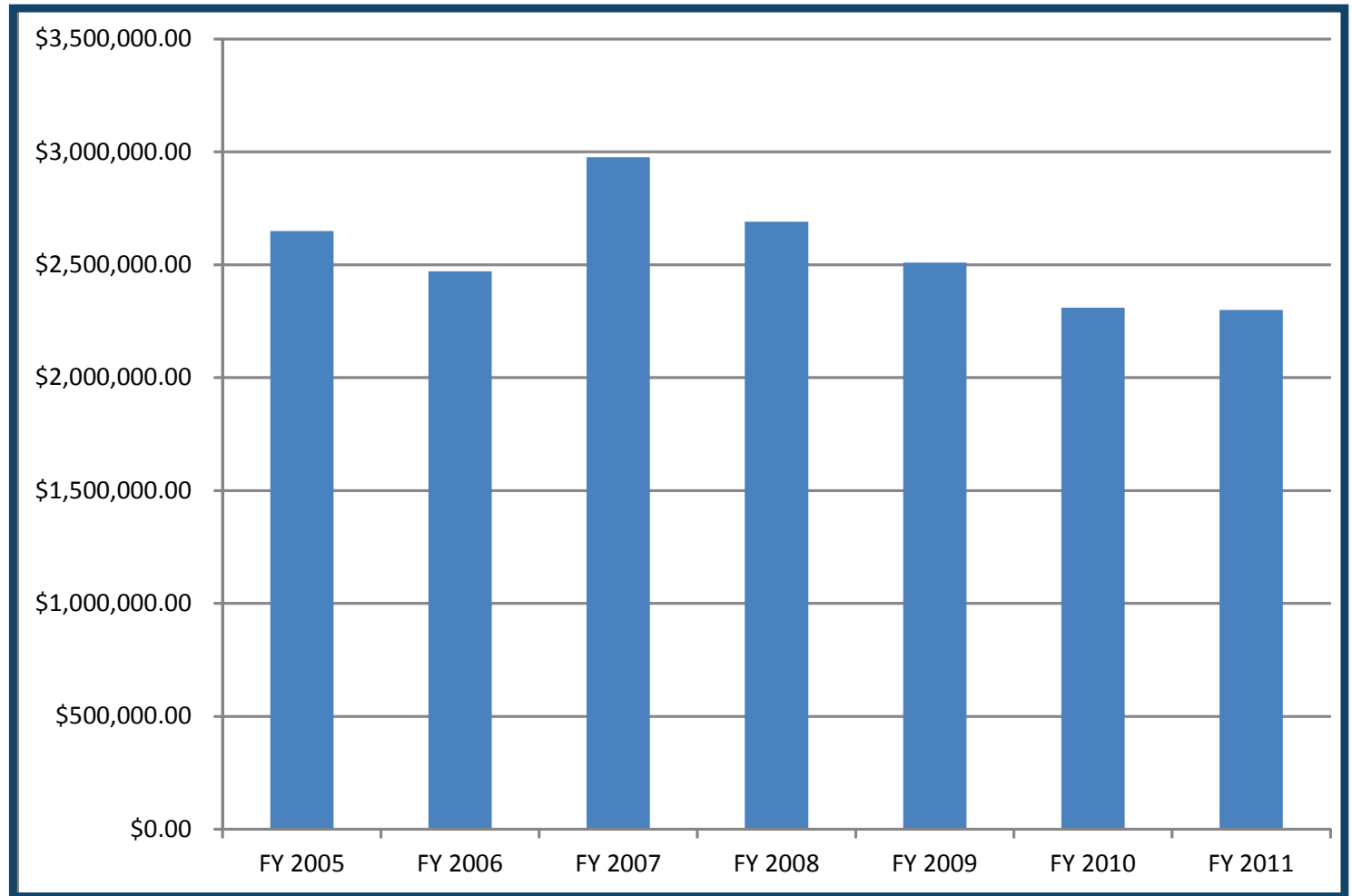
Budget Allocations by the State of Florida For Operating Courts in the Sixth Judicial Circuit

(Graph numbers do not include personnel costs, which are detailed on page 35.)

*The State's cost
for operating the
Sixth Judicial Circuit
is 13.2% less than it
was seven years ago.*

*Numbers reflected
in the chart at right
are:*

FY 2005:	\$2,649,561
FY 2006:	\$2,471,502
FY 2007:	\$2,976,471
FY 2008:	\$2,689,971
FY 2009:	\$2,509,308
FY 2010:	\$2,309,002
FY 2011:	\$2,300,198



Expense & Funding

Pinellas County's Budget Allocations For Personnel Costs and Expenses of the Sixth Judicial Circuit

Pinellas County's allocations to the Circuit for FY 2011 was 20.6% less than in Fiscal 2006.

Numbers reflected in the graph at right are:

FY 2006: \$4,781,980

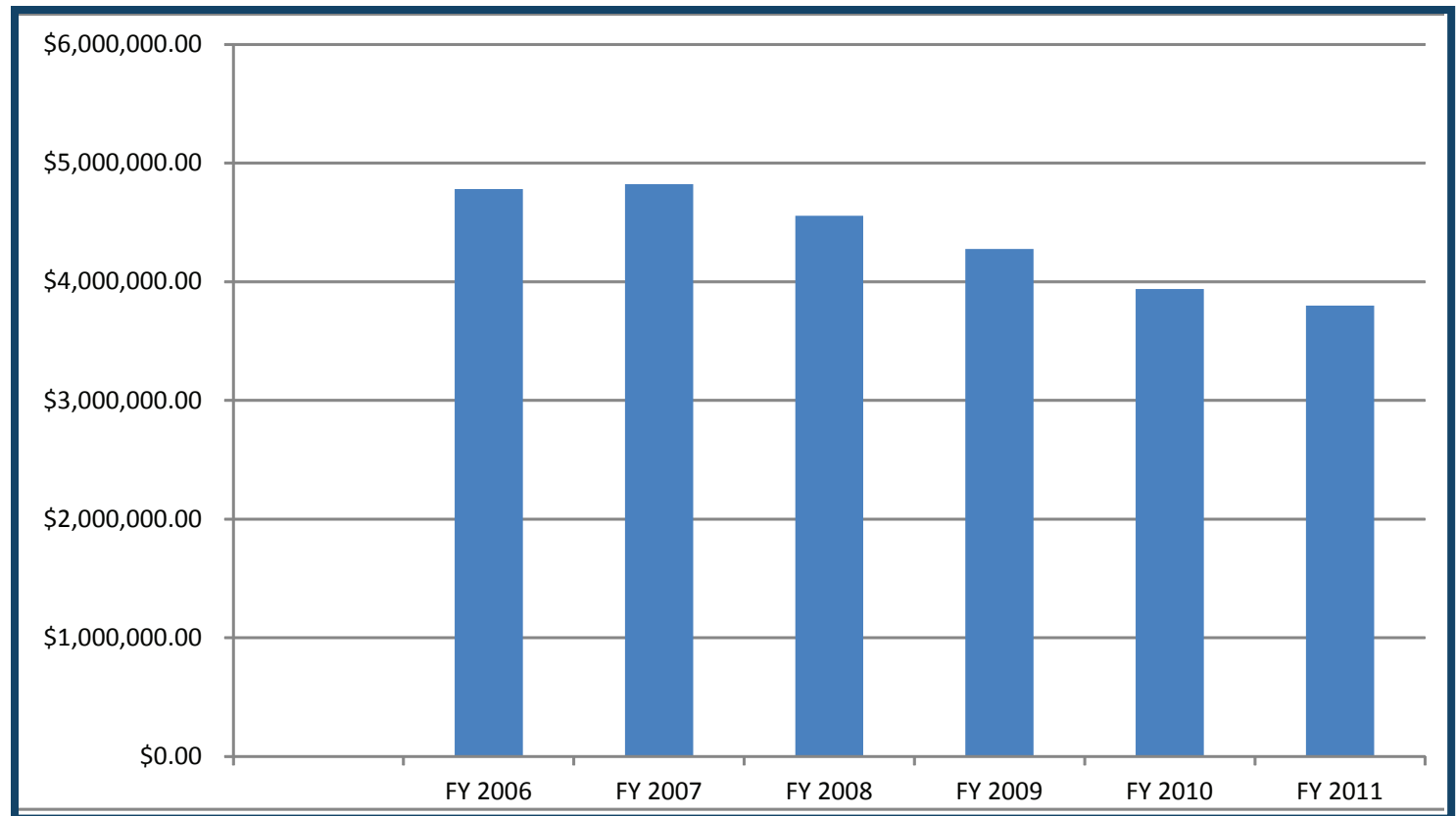
FY 2007: \$4,820,910

FY 2008: \$4,556,260

FY 2009: \$4,275,870

FY 2010: \$3,937,290

FY 2011: \$3,798,400



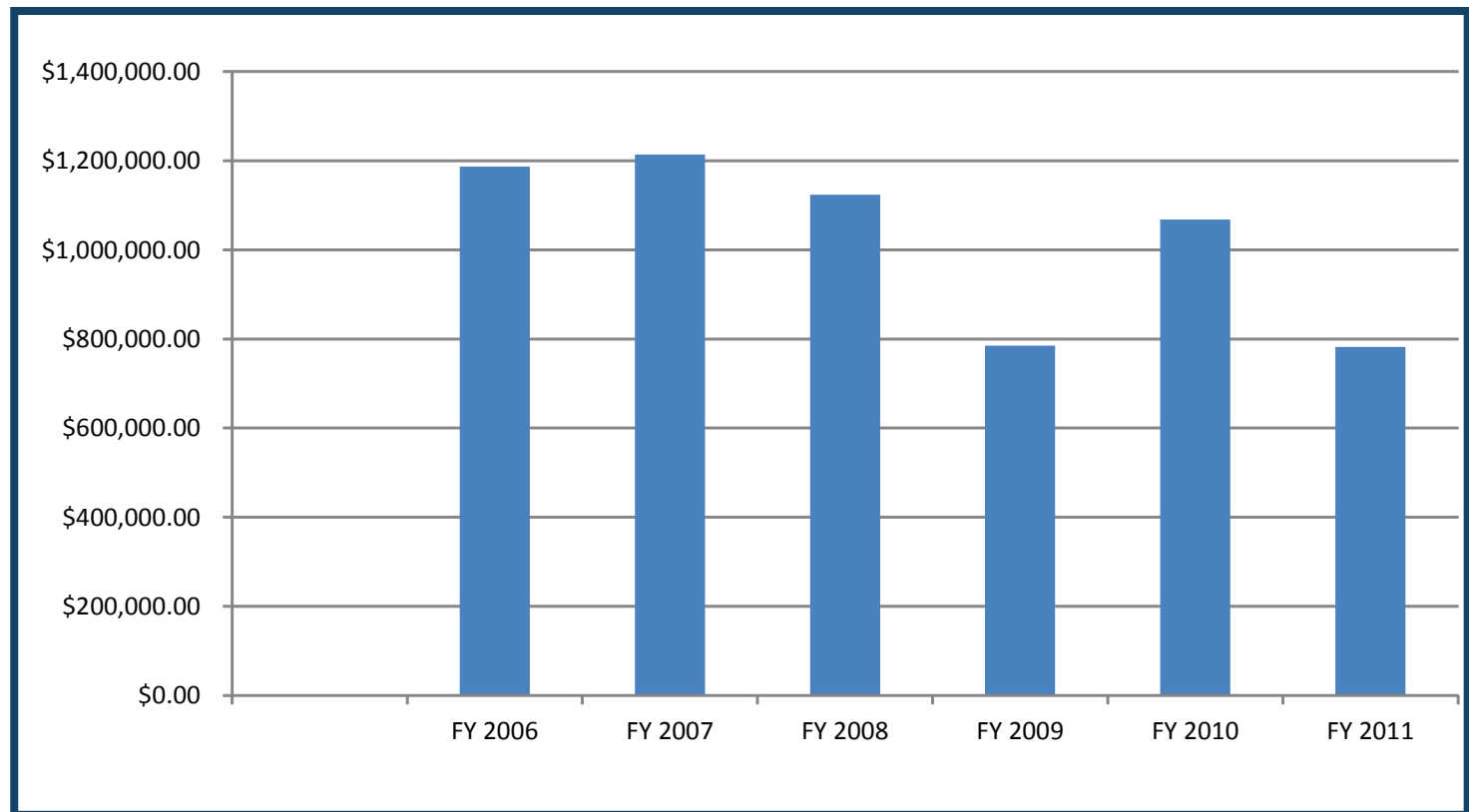
Expense & Funding

Pasco County's Budget Allocations For Personnel Costs and Expenses of the Sixth Judicial Circuit

In FY 2001., Pasco County's allocation for Sixth Judicial Circuit costs was more than 34% less than in FY 2006

Numbers represented in the graph at right are:

FY 2006: \$1,186,764
FY 2007: \$1,213,700
FY 2008: \$1,123,812
FY 2009: \$784,934
FY 2010: \$1,068,069
FY 2011: \$782,317



Expense & Funding

Total Personnel Costs for Sixth Judicial Circuit Judges & Staff

(Amounts shown were effective costs at end of fiscal year)

Funding Provided For	Total Cost	Provided By State	Provided By Pinellas County	Provided By Pasco County
Circuit Court Judges	\$6,397,946.40	\$6,397,946.40		
County Court Judges	\$3,222,720.00	\$3,222,720.00		
Circuit Court Judicial Assistants.....	\$1,684,515.11	\$1,684,515.11		
County Court Judicial Assisants.....	\$813,105.28	\$813,105.28		
Court Reporting	\$1,377,449.98	\$1,377,449.98		
Magistrates.....	\$1,190,773.55	\$1,190,773.55		
Court Counsel	\$1,080,995.35	\$849,887.90	\$231,107.45	
Administrative Office of the Courts.....	\$980,839.41	\$980,839.41		
Technology	\$736,503.96	\$88,162.64	\$524,784.71	\$123,556.61
Case Management	\$488,678.21	\$488,678.21		
Juvenile Diversion	\$503,667.10	\$0.00	\$387,979.66	\$115,687.44
Mediation	\$391,026.56	\$391,026.56		
Drug Court.....	\$204,964.56	\$66,435.36	\$138,529.20	
Behavioral Evaluations	\$281,963.54	\$0.00	\$281,963.54	
Statutory Requirements	\$164,804.41	\$0.00	\$ 97,339.01	\$67,465.40
Law Libraraires.....	\$45,114.85	\$0.00	\$ 45,114.85	
Criminal Administration.....	\$81,366.96	\$81,366.96		
Experts.....	\$110,012.76	\$82,192.92		
Total Salaries & Wages for Judges & Staff	\$19,756,447.99	\$17,715,100.28	\$1,706,818.42	\$306,709.45
Benefits & Other Costs (Social Security, Retirement & Insurance)	\$6,519,627.84	\$5,845,983.09	\$563,250.08	\$101,214.12
Total	\$26,276,075.83	\$23,561,083.37	\$2,270,068.50	\$407,923.57