


Justice Teaching Reaches Across the State

Florida Supreme Court Justice R. Fred Lewis knew when he became chief of the highest court in the state exactly what he wanted to focus on. It has been his passion for years – education. So, his first initiative has been an enormous success. His goal is to put a volunteer judge or lawyer in every classroom in every school to teach a civic education. He has met that challenge in Orange County. “The greatest satisfaction in my life has been to help kids and this great democracy,” Justice Lewis said. “I can’t think of a higher calling.”

Chief Justice Lewis brought his Justice Teaching Initiative to Orlando and taught a class full of lawyers and judges in a packed Jury Services Room on January 29, 2007 from 4 to 7 p.m. The program works to benefit students by promoting an understanding of Florida’s justice system, our laws and developing critical thinking abilities and problem solving skills by demonstrating the effective interaction of the courts within the constitutional structure. “His passion is very contagious when he travels around and spreads his ideas to others,” said **Annette Boyd Pitts**, executive director of the Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc.

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Justice Teaching is governed by a Select Committee appointed by Justice Lewis. Representatives consist of judges from the five appellate districts and the twenty judicial circuits. Members of the Florida Bar, the Florida Association of District Superintendents and Ms. Pitts’s organization are also members. **Orange County Judge Faye Allen** represents the Ninth Judicial Circuit. “This program has attracted some of the best legal minds,” Judge Allen said. “One of our goals is to teach kids the rights and responsibilities of our society so they don’t end up in the system.” More than 3,000 people have volunteered in Orange County. If you are a judge or an attorney who would like to participate, go to www.justiceteaching.org. The training is available on videotape. 



Judge Faye Allen



Judge Deborah Ansbro



Judge Deb Blechman



Judge Jay P. Cohen



Judge Jenifer Davis



Judge Jeffrey Fleming



Judge John E. Jordan



Judge Sally D.M. Kest



Judge John M. Kest



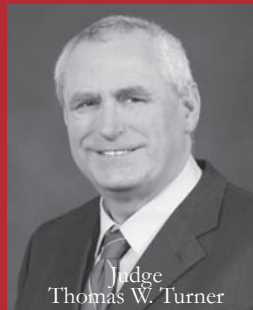
Judge Thomas Mihok



Judge W. Michael Miller



Judge Thomas Smith



Judge Thomas W. Turner

