



Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

Michelle Kennedy, Public Information Officer

2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way ♦ Viera, Florida 32940

Email: michelle.kennedy@flcourts.18.org

♦Tel: (321) 637-5355

♦Fax: (321) 633-2172

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Contact: Michelle Kennedy 321-637-5355

CIRCUIT JUDGE JOHN M. HARRIS ELECTED TO SECOND TERM AS CHIEF JUDGE

John M. Harris was unanimously chosen to lead the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit today for a second term as Chief Judge. He begins his new term July 1, 2017. Judge Harris will oversee 42 judges and a budget estimated at \$17 million.

First elected as Chief in February 2013, Judge Harris brings a wealth of experience to the Circuit's top leadership position. "I'm very proud of the advances we've made over the last two years under Judge Galluzzo's outstanding leadership," said Judge Harris. "As Chief Judge, I plan to continue efforts to improve case management practices and work on new initiatives to increase public access to, and understanding of our courts."

Of the vote of confidence his election signifies, Chief Judge-Elect Harris says, "I am honored to lead the distinguished judges and magistrates of this circuit," said Harris. "I am proud to have been asked to once again assume a leadership role, especially as we face new budget challenges."

Judge Harris was first appointed to the county court bench by Governor Jeb Bush in 2002. Governor Bush later appointed Harris to fill the circuit court vacancy when Judge Kerry Evander was elevated to the Fifth District Court of Appeal in 2006. He has worked in all divisions of the civil and criminal courts and is currently assigned to the Civil Division. Prior to becoming a judge, Harris was a partner with the law firm of Stadler & Harris, P.A. He also served as the secretary, treasurer and president of the Brevard County Bar Association between 1996 and 2000. A lifelong resident of Brevard County, Judge Harris graduated from Astronaut High School in Titusville and later received his undergraduate degree from Oklahoma University and his law degree from Florida State University. Judge Harris is married to appellate attorney Elizabeth Harris and they have three children.

The Eighteenth Circuit is comprised of Brevard and Seminole Counties.

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