

HISTORIA JURIS

Newsletter of the
Florida Supreme Court Historical Society

December 2003

Tallahassee, Florida

Progress report:

'Evolution of Justice' historical exhibit

by Evelyn Ploumis-Devick, Ph.D.

Co-Chair, Arts in the Court History Subcommittee

How do we begin to tell the story of our justice system and why is it an important part of Florida's history? What do we know about our historical roots of justice and how have the events of our state's past from prehistory to present-day continued to influence and mold the future of justice and Florida's judicial system? What impact have Supreme Court rulings had on the quality of life in our communities and who were the justices that upheld the law that ensured that the health, safety and welfare of citizens were not compromised? Most importantly, how do we communicate our rich history in a way that people of all ages can relate to and understand?

The *Evolution of Justice in Florida* initiative reveals a rich and vibrant history that reaches back to prehistoric Florida and Native American societies that evolved their strategies and sanctions to deal with conflict and preserve community balance. This

"The arts are woven into the very fabric of our humanity. They provide the historical thread and continuity that unfolds the story of 'We the people' within the dynamic tapestry of our communities. Florida's system of justice has a rich history that has, in many ways, been preserved though the arts."

-- Judge Marguerite H. Davis, First District Court of Appeal & Chair, Arts in the Court Committee

undertaking has uncovered our legacy and reflects how communities in our state evolved and influenced today's system of justice. The project's research historian, Andrew Edel, and the Arts in the Court's History Subcommittee have traced the path of justice and are prepared to unveil the findings of an aspect of Florida's legacy not widely known. The story of how **"We the people"** of Florida have built a foundation of justice to protect individual rights is designed to be told through the use of multimedia such as art, artifacts, video and interactive exhibits. It will trace the development of judicial concepts such as conflict-resolution, mediation and restoration and the continuing importance of the separation and balance of power within our government. The exhibit will provide access to our historic path of justice and will build citizen awareness and understanding of how the implementation of justice has shaped Florida's history. The initiative also addresses the important role of the courts in expanding, defining and protecting individual rights that lead to public safety and strong communities.

The Vision

Chief Justice Harry Lee Anstead is credited with the vision that has inspired the *Evolution of Justice* project. His enthusiasm led to the appointment of the History Subcommittee. Meeting with the subcommittee, he instilled the importance of communicating to the people of Florida the significant story of our justice system through the development of art and historical exhibits in the Supreme Court



Dr. Evelyn
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Project
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Building. He firmly believes in the power of the arts to preserve history as well as to educate, inspire and create historical understanding among citizens of all ages. His passion for the historical exhibition in the Supreme Court Building to serve as a means to educate Florida's citizens -- especially school children -- about our justice system, its culture and its history brought together a team of committed individuals to chart the course.

Through the leadership of Judge Marguerite Davis, of the First District Court of Appeal who chairs the Arts in the Court Committee, a subcommittee was appointed to work closely with the Supreme Court Historical Society and the Florida Law Related Education Association to carry out the vision. The History Subcommittee is composed of a team of distinguished legal professionals, scholars, artists, historians, educators and administrators. These people share the Chief Justice's vision and believe that the arts and historical artifacts are powerful intergenerational media of learning as well as a means of preserving historical roots and values that build a strong sense of community. Over the past year, the subcommittee, led by research historian Edel, has generated significant progress uncovering the rich multidimensional story of Florida's justice system.

First Phase Completed

"The significance of this initiative for our state and citizen awareness cannot be overstated," observed Chief Justice Anstead. "Its quality is of utmost importance to sustain the integrity and continuity of Florida's judicial history and for explaining the importance of the court system in defining and protecting individual rights. I am one of those people who believes that our roots form the solid foundation for character and our mission in life. The arts and the preservation of historical artifacts are bridges that link our past with the present and provide the framework for envisioning a more promising future. I commend all the people who've had a hand in bringing the project to this point. I look forward to strong support statewide as we enter the design and development phase of our 'living judicial history.'"

The recently completed first phase of an implementation plan was made possible by a contribution from The Florida Bar. That funding has underwritten the work of Edel, who recently reviewed his work in a presentation to the Chief Justice, members of the History Subcommittee and representatives of the Department of State. The

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Supreme Court history

Vol. II manuscript completed

The manuscript for the Society's second hardcover book chronicling the history of the Florida Supreme Court, covering the period 1918-1972, has been completed and publication of the new hardcover volume is expected in late 2004.

The first volume, *The Florida Supreme Court and Its Predecessor Courts, 1821-1917*, was widely acclaimed following its 1997 publication as "the most comprehensive treatment of any state supreme court during the nineteenth century." (See page 4.)

Walter Manley, II, project coordinator and primary author, also expects Volume II to be well received. "Following the success we enjoyed with Volume I, we have a standard to uphold – and I am confident that Volume II will meet the test," said Manley, a Tallahassee professor, historian and author. His principal collaborator on the project was Canter Brown, Jr., well-known author of Florida historical volumes.

Look for information on submitting pre-publication orders for Volume II in upcoming issues of *Historia Juris* and *The Florida Bar News*.



Former Chief Justice Major Harding presented commendation to author Walter Manley (right) following publication of Volume I.

Florida Supreme Court Historical Society

A 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization

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Focus on the family

Boyd's portrait distinctive

By Barbara Buford,
Supreme Court Docent

(This is the fifth article in a series on portraits displayed in the Florida Supreme Court Building.)

Joseph A. Boyd, Jr. was born in Georgia where he grew up on a farm and went to public schools. He moved to Florida in 1939 after serving in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. In 1948 he received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Miami. For the next 20 years he practiced law in the city of Hialeah, before being elected to the Florida Supreme Court on November 5, 1968. He was reelected for a six-year term in 1974, winning all but one of Florida's 67 counties -- where there was a tie.

Tallahassee artist Barbara Lester painted the official state portrait of Justice Boyd. It is a painting that the Justice must truly treasure. It required the artist and sitter to collaborate and go outside the boundaries of what was normally considered acceptable for official portraits of the Florida Supreme Court. Justice Boyd wanted to include his family in the picture. In the left foreground Justice Boyd is depicted wearing the traditional black judicial robe, white shirt and necktie. On the wall behind the Justice is a framed miniature portrait of his family. This "portrait within a portrait" includes not only the Justice, but also his wife, Ann Stripling of Hialeah, and their five children: Joanne, Betty Jean, Joseph R., James and Jane.

Diego Velazquez's 1656 painting *Las Mennias* may have influenced the Boyd portrait. The compositions are similar and both paintings contain a "portrait within a portrait." The viewer sees a family member (the daughter) in the foreground and a framed miniature portrait (of her parents) in the background. The Velazquez miniature conveys the tone of a formal state portrait with the parents standing tall, still and very proudly posed behind their daughter.



Justice Joseph A. Boyd, Jr.

On July 1, 1984, Justice Boyd became Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, serving a two-year term as Chief Justice. His primary goal in that capacity, he said, "was to accelerate judicial proceedings and eliminate causes of delay in the entire Florida judicial system." In pursuing this goal he created a Judicial Council consisting of judges, lawyers and laymen.

One thing that is little known outside the Court about Justice Boyd is his work on our Portrait Gallery. It was during his administration as Chief Justice that the gallery was brought up to date to include a likeness of each of the former Justices. Tallahassee artist Claribel Jett was commissioned by Justice Boyd to make portraits of Justices Macrae, Hart, Fraser and Semmes. In a special ceremony on October 2, 1984, some of the descendants of these Justices were invited to participate in unveiling the portraits.

On behalf of the Florida Supreme Court docents this writer welcomes the opportunity to remember Justice Boyd in this special way and to thank him -- especially for his contribution to our Portrait Gallery. It is important that we have a picture of each Justice to give present and future scholars and visitors a true picture of the past and present Florida Supreme Court family.

Society Briefs



Park Trammell
Society Executive Director

We're about to ring down the curtain on 2003 -- a very busy year for the Society by any measure.

The year has seen two extremely successful oral history programs honoring recently retired Supreme Court Justices, as well as a special reception for the longest-serving staff member in Court history. In July we lost a giant in the legal profession and in this Society when Chesterfield Smith died at the age of 85. The Society is discussing plans for an event honoring Chesterfield's lifetime of contributions, which might take the form of an annual dinner that would carry his name.

During the year the first phase of the "Evolution of Justice" project was completed and the authors finished the manuscript for the second volume in the Society's series on the history of the Florida Supreme Court. Members of The Florida Bar increased their "dues checkoff" contributions to the Society over the 2002 level and our organization gained 93 new members.

Another exciting development is just around the corner. For the past several months a group representing the Court staff and the Society has been working to enhance and expand the Supreme Court tours program, which will benefit our docents and Court visitors alike. The new, improved tours program will be inaugurated during the first quarter of 2004 -- in time for the upcoming session of the Florida Legislature, when we experience the greatest influx of visitors to the Supreme Court.

The new tours curriculum will include a short videotape outlining the structure and function of Florida's judicial system, an updated brochure on the Supreme Court and additional handouts for visitors. In addition, the tours section of the Court website (www.flcourts.org) is being expanded to provide additional information on court visits, and plans are underway to provide "office space" and parking for docents.

Anticipating an increase in the number of Court visitors, Chief Justice Anstead recently invited interested persons to volunteer to serve as docents. The response has been quite good -- but there's still room for additional volunteers. If you'd like to help, please call the Society office at 850/222-3703. Training for current and new docents has been scheduled for January 27, 2004, as noted in the box at the top of the adjacent column. If you're interested, I think you'll find the "job" extremely rewarding.

Calling all members

In an effort to hold the line on administrative costs, including printing and postage, the Society is in the process of purging from its membership rolls the individuals who have not paid dues for 2003. If you've forgotten to submit your 2003 dues, it's not too late. We'd like to keep you in the fold! Please send your dues payment right away to P. O. Box 11344, Tallahassee, FL 32302-3344. Checks, Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

Docents reminder ...

Mark your calendar for upcoming activities associated with the "new, improved" Supreme Court tours program:

- Jan. 22, 2004, 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. -- School groups scheduled to tour the Supreme Court Building (observation opportunity for new and prospective docents).
- Jan. 27, 2004, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. -- Docents training in the Supreme Court courtroom.

Call the Society office (850/222-3703) with any questions.

E-mentors sought by Florida Bar Committee on Professionalism

Attorney Kat Silverglate of Weston, chair of The Florida Bar's Standing Committee on Professionalism, reports that interest in the committee's E-mentoring program has exceeded expectations. The program seeks to create goodwill between young people and the legal profession by changing "the culture of the law."

"We are grateful to an entire generation of lawyers who want to see the next generation not only succeed, but surpass us as dedicated and trustworthy members of society," said Silverglate, who reports that the program has 675 protégées and 381 available mentors.

An individual can volunteer to become an E-mentor by visiting The Florida Bar website at www.flabar.org -- and clicking on the Professionalism link in the left column, then scrolling down to the E-mentoring link.



These "missing" photographs of Florida Supreme Court Justices were located by research historian Andrew Edel during his work on the first phase of the "Evolution of Justice" project. Noted Tallahassee photographer Alvan S. Harper took the photos of Justice James M. Baker (left), who served on the Court from 1865-1868, and Justice Augustus E. Maxwell (right), who served from 1865-1866 and again from 1887-1890.

'Evolution of Justice' exhibit ...

(continued from page 1)

main components of Edel's research focused on the judicial system, the legal basis of law, the court system, justices, and specific cases. "This is the work we've been waiting for," stated Ed Jonas, subcommittee co-chair and renowned sculptor and portrait artist. "It is important to have your exhibition script well grounded in quality research. Although various books have been written about Florida's justice system, this is the first time it has been brought together in such a comprehensive, illustrative way. Thanks to Andy Edel's

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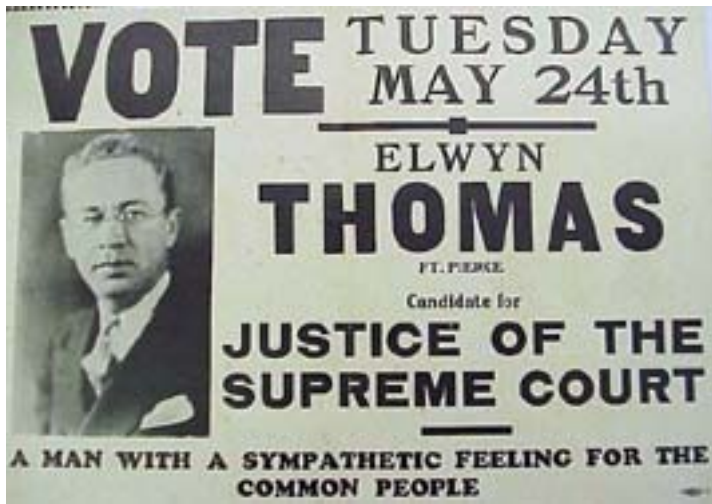


Exhibit will remind Floridians that Justices once were elected.

'Evolution of Justice' exhibit ...

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thorough work, we are now ready to move forward with development of the exhibition and related educational materials."

The historical periods researched by Edel were divided into: (1) Prehistoric and Native American, (2) Colonial, (3) Territorial, (4) Antebellum, (5) Civil War and Reconstruction, (6) Bourbon and Progressive Periods, (7) the Depression, (8) World War II, (9) Post World War II and (10) Contemporary. Edel's work also included proposed exhibit locations in the Supreme Court Building, a listing of cataloged artifacts, an artifacts database, bibliographic and primary source references, and a preliminary exhibition script. An extensive notebook has been compiled for each historical period, with annotated bibliographic source references.

Next Steps

The Chief Justice, Judge Davis and subcommittee members have met with Secretary of State Glenda Hood and her staff from the Division of Historical Resources regarding assistance from the Department of State in carrying out the exhibition phase of the project. This unique exhibit will serve to strengthen public understanding of the justice system and the integral role of the courts in expanding, defining and protecting individual rights and the assurance of freedoms. Florida's citizens, particularly its youth, will be the primary beneficiaries of this important historical initiative.

Because this project has statewide as well as national impact, the challenge is to draft a resource development plan that will ensure that the project stays on course and receives the funding necessary financial support to maintain the highest level of quality. The Department of State is in the process of identifying resources necessary and available to support the exhibition development and education phase of the project. A development committee is being formed to map out the next steps and timeline for seeking private donations and grant funds needed to move forward with the construction and implementation phase.

Please Join Us

Preserving our historical roots as a foundation for meaningful change builds a most promising future. If you are interested in learning more about plans for the *Evolution of Justice*, contact Park Trammell, executive director of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society, at 850/222-3703 or by e-mail at fschs@earthlink.net. Please let him know if you are interested in serving on the Resource Development Team or have suggestions for funding sources.

The Society welcomes ...

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Sidney A. Stubbs, Jr., *West Palm Beach*

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What the critics have said ...

The Supreme Court of Florida and Its Predecessor Courts, 1821-1917

"... the most comprehensive treatment of any state supreme court during the nineteenth century."

— *The Journal of Southern History*

"The authors have made the history of Florida's early judiciary a pleasure to read. It is not often that a book so entertaining is so informative."

— *Journal of Florida Bar Appellate Practice & Advocacy Section*

"Packed full of new, previously unpublished material ... an excellent general history of Florida's first century ... the best legal history of the state available."

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— *The Florida Times Union*, Jacksonville

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