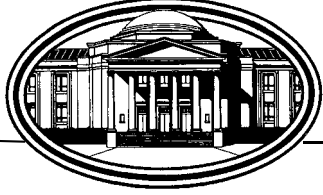


HISTORIA JURIS



Newsletter of the
Florida Supreme Court Historical Society

May 2004

Tallahassee, Florida

Host Supreme Court visitors

Docents play key role in educating the public

The Florida Supreme Docent Program recently celebrated its 10th birthday with some significant changes. Established in 1994 as a joint undertaking of the Supreme Court Historical Society and the Court, each year since then the program has ushered thousands of visitors -- mostly school children -- through the Supreme Court Building.

Tours of the Court are conducted by the docents, who are volunteers trained to educate visitors about the history, the structure and the operation of the Court. The docent program was the brainchild of Irene Kogan of Coconut Grove, wife of former Chief Justice Gerald Kogan. "Irene Kogan recognized the need for developing an organization of dedicated individuals trained to handle Supreme Court tours in a knowledgeable, organized fashion," said Sue Anstead, wife of current Chief Justice Harry Lee Anstead who has served as docents chair for the past two years.

"The program has been very successful -- and beneficial -- over the years. Irene Kogan knew what she was doing when she started the ball rolling. We are indebted to her for her vision and her perseverance in breathing life into the program."

One of the people Irene Kogan recruited was Sue Mancuso, a retired school teacher from Long Island who moved to Tallahassee in 1992. "More than any other person, Sue Mancuso has been the heart and soul of the docent program," said Sue Anstead. "Not only has she set a standard for other docents to follow in conducting tours herself, but she has spent countless hours scheduling and training the volunteers required to handle an ever-increasing number of tour requests. She deserves a medal of honor." Mancuso is relinquishing her docent scheduling activities at the end of June 2004.

Impetus for many of the recent changes in the docent program came from Chief Justice Anstead, who last year appointed a committee composed of Court staff members and representatives of the Historical Society and Florida Law Related Education Association to look at opportunities for improving program support. "The program was working well," said Supreme Court Marshal Wilson Barnes, "but the Chief recognized that some fine-tuning and additional support could benefit the program. The goal was to increase the resources available to the docents, to give them more flexibility and make their job easier."

Barnes co-chaired the effort to expand program resources with Supreme Court Librarian Joan Cannon.

Along with updating the docent handbook to provide current background and reference information, recent program changes include adding a number of components for docents to draw upon. For example, there's a new 11-minute videotape explaining the structure and function of the Florida judiciary. The tape was designed in modular form so it can be easily updated to reflect changes in Court leadership or membership.

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING JUNE 24

All members are encouraged to attend the Society's upcoming annual meeting, Thursday, June 24, in Boca Raton. The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Valencia Room of the Boca Raton Resort & Club, concurrent with the annual meeting of The Florida Bar.

Among the items on the agenda will be a proposed statewide campaign for construction and operation of an "Evolution of Justice" living history exhibit in the Florida Supreme Court Building, a proposal to reinstitute an annual Society membership dinner, recommended Bylaws revisions, and election of officers and trustees for the coming year.



Docent Kathy Garner instructs a Miami-Dade County student prior to a mock oral argument during a Supreme Court tour.

"I can make a difference ..."

Tallahassee attorney Kathy Garner, who volunteers as a Supreme Court docent, believes she can make a difference in improving public understanding of the important role played by the courts.

"It's amazing how many adults can't even name the three branches of government -- which emphasizes the need to make sure children acquire a clear understanding of how the judiciary fits into our overall system of government," Garner said. "It's critical that we reach out to young people to give them an understanding and appreciation of how the courts protect our rights and freedoms as Americans."

Garner, a solo practitioner, is one of 21 new docents added to the program this year. If you are interested in becoming a docent, please call 850/222-3703 or e-mail: fschs@earthlink.net.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

As my term winds down, I pause to reflect on some of the Society's activities during the past two years and some things we can look forward to in the future.

Foremost on the list would be the 2003 Oral History programs honoring retired Supreme Court Justices Major B. Harding and Leander J. Shaw, Jr. Both the Harding program, held in Jacksonville, and the Shaw event, which took place in Orlando, were tremendously successful by any measure. Thanks to the hard work and planning of John DeVault and Russell Troutman, the respective event chairs, the programs appropriately recognized the many contributions and exemplary careers of these two outstanding jurists. But the people to whom we really are indebted are the many Society members and event sponsors who stepped forward to help John and Russell "make it happen."



Ben Hill

The Society joined with the Arts in the Court Committee and the Florida Law Related Education Association to oversee initial work on the "Evolution of Justice" judicial history retrospective – which, when completed, will utilize high-tech exhibitry in the state Supreme Court Building to tell the story of how courts have protected personal rights from the time of the native Floridians up to the present day. The Florida Bar graciously provided the "seed money" for the first phase of the project, which has culminated with release of an impressive report summarizing artifacts identified for incorporation into the exhibit.

More recently, we have contributed to an effort to breathe new life into the Supreme Court Docent program (about which you can read elsewhere in this newsletter). Of all the work we do, nothing is more important than the efforts to educate young Floridians about the rule of law and the important role the courts play in our system of government.

Even though we've experienced the inevitable "churn" of ebb-and-flow in membership, the overall trend has been an increase in Society members. We look forward to the active involvement of both our veteran members and those who've recently come aboard. With all of us pulling together, I am confident that our mission will be successful. Before leaving the subject of members, I pause to remember that last year we all suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of Chesterfield Smith, indeed a giant in this organization as well as the legal profession of our nation. We miss him greatly!

In March we received good news from The Florida Bar Foundation, when we learned the Foundation had given the Society a \$35,000 grant to help underwrite our programs and operating expenses. We are indebted for that assistance.

The Society is fortunate to have Park Trammell as its administrator. Park joined us in mid-2001 after a 28-year Bell Telephone career and six years on The Florida Bar staff. His love of the state of Florida and its people, along with his commitment to the ideals of the judiciary, position him perfectly for the job.

Although I soon will step aside as your president, I will depart with grateful appreciation for your support and with satisfaction that we *together* are accomplishing some very important things. The next person in line -- our current first vice president, John DeVault of Jacksonville – is a great leader. I've known John personally for a long time and we couldn't find a better person to lead us. He is a former president of The Florida Bar and one of the outstanding trial lawyers in the state of Florida. He will have my support, and I hope he will have yours.

By Florida Bar Foundation

SOCIETY AWARDED GRANT

The Florida Bar Foundation has awarded the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society a \$35,000 grant to help underwrite Society activities and operating expenses. "This is a major boost to our treasury," said Society President Ben Hill, "and we are very grateful to the Foundation for its generous support."

The grant made it possible for the Society to withdraw its name from The Florida Bar's annual fee statement as a "checkoff option" for voluntary contributions. For the past three years Florida Bar members have had an opportunity to make a contribution to the Society along with payment of their Bar dues.

In 2001, checkoff contributions to the Society totaled \$32,232 (from 1,290 Bar members). Society contributions declined to \$15,256 in 2002 (from 563 Bar members) and increased to \$17,345 last year (from 711 members). The Foundation's name has also appeared on the Bar fee statement as a checkoff option.

The Florida Bar Foundation provides grants in the areas of:

- improvement in the operation and management of the court system;
- improvement and reform of the criminal, civil, and juvenile justice systems;
- public education and understanding about the law, including law-related education; and
- promotion and support for public interest legal representation.

The Society welcomes ...

New Life Member: Joseph W. Hatchett, Tallahassee

New Members

Dean Bob Butterworth, *Miami* Andrew J. Mayts, Jr., *Tampa*
 Mattox S. Hair, *Jacksonville* Joseph C. McIntyre, *Miami*
 P. B. Howell, Jr., *Leesburg* John McQuigg, *Tampa*
 Barbara Jorgenson, *Tallahassee*

Florida Supreme Court Historical Society

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

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Honorary Chair: Chief Justice Harry Lee Anstead

Executive Committee

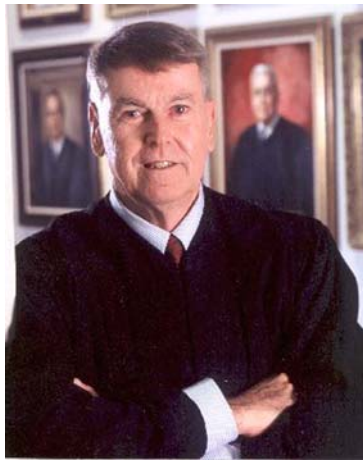
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Howard C. Coker, second vice president	Herman J. Russomanno
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Charles W. Ehrhardt	Thomas C. MacDonald, Jr.	

Executive Director: Park Trammell

Under the Dome



**Chief Justice
Harry Lee Anstead,
Florida Supreme Court**

I want to thank all those individuals who have helped bring the State Courts System through one of the most difficult challenges we have faced in recent history. Your many hours of hard work and dedicated service, and your loyalty and unwavering commitment to protecting and preserving Florida's trial courts, were crucial to the success of Revision 7 to the judicial article of the state Constitution. Thanks to you, our courts will continue to fulfill the right of access to justice enshrined in our fundamental law.

Congratulations on a job well done! It could not have been done without you.

One last reminder: Not all the work on Revision 7 is completed, and I need to ask for your additional help in the months ahead. Please contact your local Chief Judge to see how you can assist as we now seek funding from the county commissions. As you certainly know, the obligations assumed by the legislature under Revision 7 do not include many important programs that the citizens in local communities count on. We now must convince our local leaders to continue the support they have provided to these same programs in the past. For that, I must rely on the work of you, your associates and friends in supporting local court services.

Have you paid your 2004 dues?

About half the members of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society had paid their 2004 membership dues by the time this newsletter went to press. If you've already sent in your dues, thanks! If you haven't, we'd appreciate your doing so at the earliest opportunity.

Dues and contributions are necessary to keep the organization alive. We need your support.

FSCHS website in the works

Soon you will be able to access the Society's new website at www.flcourthistory.org. That domain name has been registered and reserved for FSCHS, with construction of the site expected to begin in the near future.

"The Society is overdue in establishing a presence on the web," said Executive Director Park Trammell. "In today's world, people increasingly turn to the Internet as a source for all kinds of information -- even for business transactions. The website will help us do a better job in reaching out to our members and to the public."

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Supreme Court Commemorates 50th Anniversary of Decision

Exactly 50 years later, to the date and hour, the Florida Supreme Court on May 17 commemorated the anniversary of the historic 1954 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ordered desegregation of the nation's schools.

The Court observed the anniversary with a full ceremonial session, in which Miami attorney H. T. Smith reenacted portions of the actual arguments in the case. Chief Justice Harry Lee Anstead reenacted the actual decision, which the nation's highest court announced during the noon hour on May 17, 1954.

Justice Peggy A. Quince, the Florida Supreme Court's first female African-American member, chaired the event, which was followed by a reception in the rotunda sponsored by The Florida Bar.

Other speakers included Joseph Hatchett, the first African-American to sit on Florida's highest court, and Leander J. Shaw, Jr., who was the Court's first African-American Chief Justice.

Passing of the Gavel

PARIENTE NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE

Justice Barbara J. Pariente will become the 51st Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court on July 2 when she is sworn in to succeed Chief Justice Harry Lee Anstead in a "Passing of the Gavel" ceremony in the Supreme Court courtroom in Tallahassee.



Justice Pariente

She will become the second woman to serve as the state's top judicial officer. Her term will extend through mid-2006. Former Chief Justice Rosemary Barkett, now judge on the U. S. 11th District Court of Appeals, was the first woman to lead the Florida Supreme Court (1992-1993).

Pariente, who is married to 4th DCA Judge Fred Hazouri of West Palm Beach, served four years on the 4th district appellate court before former Governor Lawton Chiles appointed her to the Florida Supreme Court in December 1997.

Before that she spent 18 years in private law practice in South Florida.



Did you know that former Florida Supreme Court Justice H. L. "Tom" Sebring (above left) served on the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal following World War II? This photo is one of many artifacts that would be included in the "Evolution of Justice" living history exhibit planned for the Florida Supreme Court Building.



Docent Sue Mancuso talks with students in the courtroom.

Docents play key role ...

(continued from page 1)

“One of the most popular features of Supreme Court tours,” Cannon said, “has been the mock oral arguments -- especially among students visiting the Court. The committee recently developed seven new mock oral argument scenarios that can be used by the docents. Also, we’ve produced additional printed handout pieces and expanded the tours information on the Court website (www.flcourts.org). Thanks to help from The Florida Bar, we’ve also updated a booklet on the Florida Supreme Court that’s available to Court visitors.”

In addition, office space has been set up for docents in the Supreme Court Library and reserved parking slots have been established for them.

Coincident with the changes being undertaken in the docent program, there was a need to recruit additional volunteers. The word went out to Tallahassee area attorneys, as well as faculty and students at the Florida State University College of Law. The recruiting effort attracted more than 20 new volunteers, which roughly doubled the number of docents. The present docent force includes attorneys and their spouses, FSU law students and faculty members, Court staff members, and other interested individuals. All have received the necessary training to conduct the tours, which typically last between one and one-and-a-half hours.

The docent program principally operates during the spring of the year, during and surrounding the time when the state legislature is in session. “During that time, hundreds of busloads of school children from all over Florida travel to Tallahassee to see state government in action,” said Colleen Helm, administrative assistant in the Marshal’s Office, who fields tour requests from schools and tour operators. “Typically, students tour the Old and New Capitol Buildings, the State Archives and the Governor’s Mansion -- and sometimes the Supreme Court. They have a busy agenda while they are in town and we do our best to accommodate them at the Court.”

Helm reports that so far this year approximately 5,000 people have visited the Supreme Court. In 2003 there were 6,563 visitors, in 2002 there were 6,328 and in 2001 there were 5,800.

Even though the Supreme Court Building is on the tour circuit for schoolchildren visiting Tallahassee, it is not visited as often as the other attractions. “Not all of the students who visit the Capitol come across the street to the Supreme Court,” noted Chief Justice Anstead. “I hope we can change that. Public education about our unique form of government and the separate, but important, responsibilities of each branch is absolutely essential in a healthy democracy. It’s very important that people not only see how the Executive and Legislative branches operate, but also the Judicial branch. We need to encourage them to come visit us as well. It’s especially important that our young people understand the important role the courts play in guaranteeing the freedoms we enjoy as Americans.”

A well-trained, dedicated group of Supreme Court docents -- the Chief Justice reasons -- is a key to that educational process.

NOTICE

Volume II of the history of the Florida Supreme Court (1918-1972) will be out in 2005. See future issues of *Historia Juris* for information on pre-publication orders.

Meantime ... do you have your copy of Volume I ?

Here’s what the critics have said about the first volume (*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.”

– Dr. James M. Denham, *The Florida Bar Journal*

“Much more than the judicial history of Florida ... essential to serious preservers and pursuers of Florida’s past.”

– *The Florida Times Union*, Jacksonville

Get your copy of this widely acclaimed 454-page hardcover book from the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society by sending \$45, plus tax and \$4.00 shipping, to P.O. Box 11344, Tallahassee, FL 32302-3344. Checks, Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

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