

# HISTORIA JURIS

Newsletter of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society

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## President's Perspective

by Edward G. Guedes

The old gray mare, she ain't what she used to be...." Those opening lyrics from the old American folk song, while perhaps unflattering if taken literally, certainly apply to the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society's transformation during these past two to three years. Beginning under the leadership of Sylvia Walbolt, who led the effort to analyze the needs of the Society as an ongoing, viable entity and to develop a five-year transition plan, and continuing through the leadership of my predecessor, Kelly O'Keefe, who galvanized the will of our trustees and solidified the committee structure that would implement the plan, the transition is now well under way. Almost a dozen separate committees are now working tirelessly to continue the Society's mission of preserving the Court's history and educating Floridians as to the importance of the judiciary in our democracy, while making the Society ever more relevant to younger and more diverse members of the legal profession and the general public at large.

Significantly, the third volume of the Society's history of the Florida Supreme Court, *The Florida Supreme Court – A Journey Towards Justice, 1972-1987*, was made available to the public last summer. Emblematic of the transformative transition the Court, itself, underwent in the early to mid-1970s, the third volume departs from the approach employed in prior volumes and is written in a fresh, transparent, and entertaining journalistic

style by author, Neil Skene. The book is available through the Society's website, as well as numerous retail outlets. It is a thoroughly enjoyable read.

The Society also now has a fully developed presence in social media through its Facebook page. I invite you all to visit and "Like" our page. The Society's page hosts important information about its upcoming events, photos from recent Society and

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The Florida Supreme Court Historical Society



## Lifetime Achievement Award

presented to

**John F. "Jack" Harkness**

The Florida Supreme Court Historical Society will honor John "Jack" F. Harkness, Jr. with its Lifetime Achievement Award at the Society's Annual Dinner on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

After serving 37 years as Executive Director of The Florida Bar, Jack Harkness is retiring as the nation's longest-serving executive director. Harkness has been the recipient of many awards during his years of service. To name just a few: He is this year's recipient of the Florida Bar Foundation's Medal of Honor, its highest distinction; in 2015, the complex that houses the bar's headquarters was renamed The Florida Bar John F. Harkness, Jr. Complex; and in 2014, The Florida Bar's General Practice, Solo and Small Firm section awarded Harkness its Tradition of Excellence Award.

Harkness's accomplishments are legend. He has had an active role in every initiative and undertaking of The Florida Bar, creating, overseeing the development of, or implementing: uniform systems of electronic filings throughout Florida, facilitating public access to records; the first Interest on Trust Accounts Program; educating the public about judicial merit retention; advocating access to justice through the Bar's efforts to ensure adequate funding for the courts; the launch of The Florida Bar website in the early 1990s, the creation of mandatory continuing legal education; programs to offer free legal research to bar members; a career center pairing employers with potential candidates for law-related positions; an ethics hotline for lawyers to obtain advice; and increasing public transparency and accessibility to the attorney discipline process.

Jack received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Florida in 1966 and his Juris Doctorate from UF Law in 1969.

He began his career working for the Florida legislature and later moved to private practice in South Florida. He returned to Tallahassee to serve as State Courts Administrator from 1974 to 1980, before beginning his career with The Florida Bar.

Co-Editors: Susan Rosenblatt, First Vice President; Stanley M. Rosenblatt, Co-Chair Publications Committee; Daniel Hoffman, Publications Committee.

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Court events (like Justice Perry's successful and tremendously enjoyable retirement dinner last year), as well as the occasional historical nuggets pulled from the Society's archives. This accomplishment was due in large part to the efforts of trustees and Communications Committee Co-Chairs, Stephanie Varela and Edith Osman. Stephanie and Edith had the unenviable task of developing policies and procedures for implementing a social media presence while being sensitive to the important and legitimate concerns of the Court regarding the potential for abuses of social media.

Lest anyone think we have abandoned our foothold in matters historical in favor of burying our heads in mobile devices, our esteemed colleague and fellow trustee, Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte, graciously donated to the Society the historic desk belonging to his great-uncle, Justice James Bryant Whitfield (1860-1948), who served on the Court for almost 40 years. After considerable consideration of logistics – which ended with several people simply picking up the desk and moving it – the desk has now found its permanent home in the law library of the Florida Supreme Court, where members of the Bar and the general public may admire it.

The past year also saw the investiture of the Court's 86th and most recent Justice C. Alan Dawson. A Lakeland, Florida native, later raised in Tallahassee, Justice Lawson served on the Fifth District Court of Appeal for 10 years immediately before being appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Governor Rick Scott. The investiture was a grand event that began with an impressive procession of robed judges from throughout the state, but not so grand as to overlook the "lavish" gift from Justice Lawson's former Ninth Judicial Circuit colleagues: 12 pencils personally engraved with his name and new title.

Sadly, the past year has not been without its somber moments. Most recently, the Society and all of Florida mourned the passing of Justice Parker Lee McDonald at the age of 93. Justice McDonald served on the Court from 1979 to 1994, including his tenure as Chief Justice from 1986 to 1988, and was a devoted supporter of the Society and its mission. His beloved wife, Ruth, served as the Society's treasurer for a great many years before her retirement. Words cannot express the sense of loss experienced by the Society's trustees and staff, and we

continue to extend our love and support to Ruth and the rest of the McDonald family.

With half of my term as president already behind me, I can say that it has been my distinct pleasure and honor to serve this wonderful organization and the Court, while working with some of the most talented colleagues imaginable. Even though much remains to be done in the next few months, I look forward to those challenges knowing full well that the future of the Society looks bright and that its leadership in the coming years is in terrific hands.

Sincerely,  
Edward G. Guedes



## Thank you to all of our 2018 Supreme Evening Sponsors

*A special thank you to our sponsors for their generous contributions that make this event possible*

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## *A Message From Chief Justice Jorge Labarga*

A few weeks ago I chaired a meeting of the Florida Commission on Access to Civil Justice, something I have done on a regular basis during my tenure as chief justice.

The judges, lawyers, clerks, lawmakers, state officials, and business leaders who make up the commission have been working very hard for the last few years to find ways to narrow the gap that keeps far too many of our poor and working-class neighbors from meaningful access to civil justice.

The task before them – before all of us really – is too big for just the legal profession to complete. Many lawyers before us have dedicated their careers and, indeed, their lives to the challenge of helping people get meaningful access to civil justice. Lawyers on the front line today continue to work to help people seeking justice and they are, truly, heroes. Judges and court staff do what they can, ethically, to help people who call and come into our courthouses.

But the problem persists: Too many people are isolated without legal help for life-changing problems – and not just poor people. This problem stretches well into the middle class. And so, with the support of The Florida Bar and The Florida Bar Foundation and my fellow justices, I created the access commission a few months after becoming chief justice in the summer of 2014.

At each and every meeting of the commission in the last three years, I have been inspired and heartened by the passion and drive of the people around the table. Yes, all our meetings have been good and all have, I'm sure, moved us closer to our goal of narrowing that civil justice gap.

But here's what I want you to know: The most recent meeting was the most productive meeting we've ever had.

Several projects and initiatives discussed at our meeting will work in the real world to narrow our civil justice gap. They will guide real Floridians who need to find their way into their courts and around their courts for real help with family law problems, with disaster recovery legal issues and, really, with just about any civil justice issue any of us might confront.

I'm going to talk about just one -- a great new tool that strikes at the heart of our efforts on the commission. And, by the way, it has the perfect name: "Florida Courts Help." This is an app, widely available and compatible with any mobile device, that will make the family law forms currently available on our websites also reachable on smart phones and other mobile devices. Now why is this significant? Because many of the people who are representing themselves in our courts when they need to get a divorce or settle child custody or change a name may access the internet only through a mobile device. Thus, our app functions to unlock the doors to the civil justice system and to swing them open. In addition, the responsive website accessed through the app provides helpful videos, local information, and many other resources available throughout the state.

As the Access Commission's work continues, other vital efforts are ongoing as well. The work of the Constitution Revision Commission is of great consequence. Almost a year ago, I named Hank Coxe of Jacksonville, Arthenia Joyner of Tampa, and Roberto Martinez of Coral Gables to the Constitution Revision Commission.

As I'm sure you know, the CRC is created every 20 years to review the Florida Constitution and make proposals directly to voters. The state's chief justice names three people to the 37-member board.

Although we won't know the ultimate impact of the current CRC until the people

of Florida have their say on Election Day, one thing has been crystal clear to me, and to others as well: Mr. Coxe, Ms. Joyner, and Mr. Martinez have provided outstanding service in their role as commissioners.

I'm not surprised. I took great care in making the appointments assigned to the chief justice. I wanted people skilled in the law but I thought it was equally important to appoint people with a breadth of knowledge about all the functions of government and its impact upon the everyday lives of everyday people. And I certainly took advantage of the wise advice of my colleagues on the Court.

I am taking this opportunity to thank Mr. Coxe, Ms. Joyner, and Mr. Martinez for their excellent service.

I want also to thank the leaders and members of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society for your continuing support of our state's high court and judicial branch. As we all know, courts are often obliged to make unpopular decisions. That simply goes with the territory – always has and always will, as long as we have an impartial judiciary.

And that's what makes the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society so important. Our courts must have the trust and confidence of the public to function. One of the very reasons the Society exists is to broaden and deepen public understanding of the role of courts in our democracy and our society.

### *Update from the Communications Committee:*

Since last year's dinner, the Communications Committee has successfully launched a Facebook page for the Society. We now have about 140 followers and have recently used Facebook as a platform to promote this year's dinner. We encourage all members to check out the Society's page at



[FLSupremeCourtHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/FLSupremeCourtHistoricalSociety)

*IN MEMORIAM AND TRIBUTE*  
**FORMER FLORIDA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE  
PARKER LEE McDONALD**

(May 23, 1924 Sebring, Florida - June 24, 2017 Tallahassee, Florida)

*Portrait of  
Justice  
McDonald  
during his second  
year on the high  
court, 1980.*



It is with profound sadness that The Florida Supreme Court Historical Society notes the passing of Parker Lee McDonald, former Chief Justice and Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Justice McDonald served as a Justice from October 26, 1979 to his mandatory retirement (at age 70) on May 31, 1994 and as the Chief Justice from 1986 to 1988. Justice McDonald served on the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida from 1961 until his appointment to the Florida Supreme Court in 1979.

Chief Justice Jorge Labarga: “Justice McDonald was a major influence in shaping the future of the Court after the sweeping reforms of the 1970s. He and the group of Justices placed on the Court during that era helped transform it into the respected tribunal it is today.” ([www.wtsp.com/news/6/24/17](http://www.wtsp.com/news/6/24/17))

*Governor Bob  
Graham, left, at  
the robing  
ceremony for  
newly appointed  
Florida Supreme  
Court Justice  
Parker Lee  
McDonald  
(1979)*



Justice Parker Lee McDonald was appointed by former Governor Bob Graham to the state Supreme Court in 1979. One of his much cited cases is *State v. Neil* in 1984, a landmark decision restricting racial discrimination during jury selection, a position later adopted by the United States Supreme Court.

One gets a flavor for this remarkable Justice and his keen sense of humor from a recent article he authored in the Spring/Summer edition of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society Magazine, Justice Parker Lee McDonald on the “Journey Toward Justice.” (pp. 30-31) Justice McDonald described his arrival in Tallahassee in October, 1979: “When I first arrived, I was whistling away under the dome when Tony Smilgin, the Marshal, came up and said ‘We don’t allow any whistling in the Supreme Court Building.’ I introduced myself and said, ‘I don’t care what you don’t allow, I’m going to whistle anyhow.’ He probably knew who I was but we had a good-natured laugh. We became friends and stayed that way.” And Justice McDonald continued to whistle throughout and following his service on the Florida Supreme Court. We miss his whistling.

*Justice  
McDonald As a  
Member of the  
US Armed Force  
in Germany  
during World  
War II.*





Justice McDonald respected and enjoyed deliberating with his colleagues. He described Justice Sundberg as having “a sharp crackling mind with a keen sense of humor.” Arthur England “was similarly talented . . . [and] somewhat egotistic but had earned the right to be. When the two had opposing conclusions on an issue, it was a treat to sit back and listen to them as they went into it.” Jimmy Adkins and Jim Alderman were both “old Florida crackers and proud of it . . . [with] sound grasps of the law.” Justice McDonald told us of his experience as Chief Justice when he hosted the convention of Chief Justices from around the world. “When the Chief Justice of Nigeria wanted to ‘belly dance,’ she [Ruth McDonald] took him to another dance hall where the young lawyers were Rocking and Rolling. He danced so hard that he lost his little hat.” Id at 31. We will miss Justice McDonald’s keen wit and charm.

Justice McDonald summed up his service as a Justice:

“Whether it was work or play, being a Justice was a privilege and an honor. I enjoyed all of my Fourteen years and seven months as a member. My goal, and I can safely say that of all of those with whom I served, was to establish and maintain a court in which the public had absolute confidence. Scholarship, integrity, diligence, and dedication all played a part. We tried to make wise decisions and conduct ourselves and the Court in a manner deserved by you. I hope that we did.”

Yes, Justice McDonald you served Florida well.

Justice Parker McDonald and his beloved wife Ruth McDonald helped develop and guide the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society for many years. Their devotion to the Society was demonstrated in many ways, including Ruth’s long-standing position as Treasurer of the Society. The Florida Supreme Court Historical Society sends their condolences to Ruth McDonald and the extended McDonald family.

The Historical Society also wishes Ruth a full and speedy recovery from her recent health challenge.

*By Susan and Stanley Rosenblatt*



*Photo by Joe Rondone - Tallahassee Democrat*



*Photo by Joe Rondone - Tallahassee Democrat*





## JUSTICE JAMES E. C. PERRY RETIREMENT CELEBRATION DINNER

The retirement dinner for Justice James E. C. Perry was sponsored by the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society, under the guidance of Kamilah Perry, Justice Perry's daughter. The event, also supported by 23 voluntary bar associations, was on Thursday evening, April 13, 2017 at the elegant Church Street Station Ballroom in Orlando, Florida. It was a memorable and spirited evening for all.

Following a cocktails and hors d'oeuvres reception, the large gathering of fellow Justices, friends, family and colleagues was entertained and welcomed to a superb dinner by a drum line from Young Blacks in Action, Inc., an Orlando group that encourages the talents of young African Americans. Their performance was both emotive and technically impressive.

National recording artist Wintley Phipps, Justice Perry's good friend and favorite recording artist, also entertained with his superb inspirational ballads. Mr. Phipps' son, a law student, was mentored by Justice Perry. He took the occasion to express his gratitude.

The many speakers, both family members and colleagues, emphasized Justice Perry's intellect as well as his courage and fortitude in fighting prejudice and racial discrimination in North Carolina, his birth place, and in Georgia and Florida. Justice Perry was the first African American appointed to the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida.

Kamilah Perry introduced the Master of Ceremonies, The Honorable Manuel Menendez, former Chief Judge of the 13th Judicial Circuit. Family members Willis C. Perry (son) and Adrienne Perry (wife and Chairman (retired) of the Department of Education at Stetson University) also spoke with love and admiration about the Justice.

A very moving video presentation 'A Lifetime of Achievement,' produced by Kevin Lawson, introduced the attendees to Justice Perry's close-knit family and his humble but honorable childhood.

The video presentation was followed by comments from a group of good friends and colleagues. These included Candice

Assoc. of Central Florida; The Honorable Val Demings, the United States Congresswoman from Florida's 10th Judicial District; good friends Frank Bolden, the former Vice President of Johnson & Johnson, Marvin Mangham, president of Atlanta Planning Group and Jeffrey Fuquay, president of Amick Construction Co., Inc.

Two well-known Florida trial lawyers, John Morgan and Philip Freidin also spoke of their friendship and admiration for Justice Perry, and the inspiration he shared throughout his career. These attorneys' remarks included comical anecdotes, resembling more a celebrity roast than a dinner for a retiring Justice. But Justice Perry enjoyed the humor and laughed along with the rest of us.

Justice James E. C. Perry spoke briefly but eloquently, thanking all who came from near and far to join in the celebration. Judge Menendez had some concluding remarks, followed by the Benediction by Father Nelson Pender.







## ORAL HISTORY CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Mary E. Adkins

In May of 2016, I met with then-Justice James E. C. Perry to prepare to conduct an oral history interview on behalf of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society. I didn't yet realize this was the first step of a life-changing process.

The video-recorded interview was to take place one month later; the occasion was Perry's upcoming retirement, forced by the terms of the Constitution of Florida, which mandated judges to retire on, or shortly after (depending on where their birthday fell within their six-year term), their seventieth birthdays.

I didn't know Justice Perry well, but he and I had had a few conversations. He had volunteered, along with other justices, to judge the University of Florida Levin College of Law's Moot Court competitions a few times; as faculty advisor for the Florida Moot Court Team, I had spoken with him at receptions. We discovered that we shared a birthday and a home state. He recommended books for me to read, as he does for many other people he speaks with. We had had a couple of conversations about what it is like, as he puts it, "to be black in America."

I had previously taken several oral history interviews, both for the University of Florida's Samuel Proctor Oral History Program and in my own historical research for my book, *Making Modern Florida*. It was presumably for that reason that FSCHS roped me in to be the chair of its recently revived Oral History Committee. With three justices retiring in the next few years, the committee would have work to do. Then-President Kelly O'Keefe asked me to kick off the initiative by conducting Justice Perry's interview.

Though I knew a little of Justice Perry, I did not suspect what effect this interview would have on my outlook on life.

In preparing for the interview I, of course, had researched what had been written about Perry's life. His journey is remarkable and inspiring. He had once addressed my legal writing class at UF Law, so I had heard the bare bones of the story. When I felt prepared enough to ask intelligent questions, I met with him in his office for a prep meeting.

I took a chair as the big man sat behind his big desk. The room was filled with many family photos covering at least four generations, and with many golf trophies. As we talked about the subjects we might cover in the video-recorded interview, I remarked on what an inspiring life story Justice Perry had to tell. He agreed, and added, "Some people say I ought to write a book about it." Timidly, I said, "I could help you with that."

Justice Perry stood up to his full height, leaned across the desk, stuck out his hand to shake mine, and boomed, "Deal!"

What has followed has been an honor and an eye-opening adventure. Our hours of conversations have painted pictures in my mind: of growing up in segregated New Bern, North Carolina, through which two rivers flowed that African-American kids were discouraged from swimming in; of the strength and pride of New Bern's black community, where a misbehaving child could get "whupped" twice, once by the neighbor who caught him acting out and once by the parents when the child got home; of having a surprise opportunity to attend college as an athlete; of proudly sending home a picture of himself as an Army lieutenant, only to have his grandmother complain that the picture made his skin look "too dark."

Justice Perry told me about the myriad adjustments that were and are routine in black lives, but that those of us with paler skin never have had to know about. For example, that African-Americans often place a higher value on educating daughters than sons, because an uneducated daughter could wind up working as a domestic in a white household, subject to the unwelcome roaming hands

of the man of the house. I heard of the small slights: the assumption that a black man in the driver's seat in a big car carrying a white must be the employed driver; the invisible wall between a suburban dark-skinned woman in the South and the garden club she wishes to join; the slip-ups in which whites forget to refrain from using racial epithets in the presence of a black person.

But I also learned of the magnanimity and hope that can crest and bubble over. For example, after the November 2016 presidential election, in which Donald Trump won a majority of votes in the electoral college, Justice Perry called me on the phone to comfort me (yes, I was disappointed in the outcome). He told me that it wasn't the end of the world or even the worst thing that had happened in America. And hearing that, coming from him, was perhaps the most powerful illustration for me of everything blacks in America have outlived. They have suffered, they have overcome withering prejudice, they have seen their political power born, in Reconstruction, and killed, in Jim Crow times. Reborn with a President Obama and repudiated by those who would call an African-American president an "animal" and worse. Yet so many people like James E. C. Perry have taken the road of forgiveness, perseverance, encouragement, and hope.

Getting to know Justice James E. C. Perry has changed my life, I hope. I hope that the impact of his story has opened my eyes permanently and that the new vigilance will not wear off. I hope that my mind will never unsee what Justice Perry has helped me to see.

And that's what an ordinary oral history of an extraordinary person can do for you, if you let it. I hope you watch the video.

*Editor's note: The FSCHS oral history interview with Justice Perry is available at: <https://flcourthistory.org/Oral-History-Project>.*



Mary Adkins is the Secretary of the FSCHS. She is the director of Legal Writing and Appellate Advocacy and a Master Legal Skills Professor at the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

# THE INVESTITURE OF THE 86TH JUSTICE OF THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT: JUSTICE ALAN C. LAWSON

*By Stanley and Susan Rosenblatt*



The Investiture of Justice Alan C. Lawson took place at the Florida Supreme Court on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, followed by a reception in the rotunda of the Supreme Court. The reception was co-hosted by the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society and the Orange County Bar Association.

The investiture commenced with a very impressive Judicial Procession of robed Judges who traveled from all over the State to participate. The large crowd, with standing room only, included Florida Governor Rick Scott who addressed the audience, praising his judicial selection as a “truly great man.”

All of the Justices participated in the Investiture, commencing with Justice R. Fred Lewis who gave the Pledge of Allegiance, Justice Peggy A. Quince with the Invocation, comments from Chief Justice Jorge Labarga, remarks from Justice Lawson's friend and colleague, Justice Charles T. Canady, and stimulating readings from Justices Barbara J. Pariente and Ricky Polston.

Following the Oath of Office and Enrobing of Justice Lawson, joined by his wife Julie Carlton Lawson and their family, Justice Lawson addressed the

audience. The focus of Justice Lawson's comments was the precious gift of our United States Constitution. In his scholarly presentation Justice Lawson emphasized the uniqueness of the gift of the Constitution with an emphasis on freedom and justice.

Justice Lawson explained that historically the majority of mankind has been ruled by autocrats. He recounted his experience when visiting the Soviet Union as a young man where he was detained for several hours by a paranoid government that viewed every foreigner as a potential spy. The atmosphere was one of suspicion and people avoided eye contact and scurried about with the feeling they were being watched by a ubiquitous state apparatus.

When he returned to America, Justice Lawson said the feeling of openness and freedom was palpable. This concrete personal experience gave all of us much food for thought.

Justice Lawson also stressed the importance of an independent judiciary under our constitutional structure. His comments caused many of us to think back to the disheartening time when members of the Florida Supreme Court were under attack by special interest groups during the merit retention election process. Justice Lawson has served both as a trial and appellate judge and gave his judicial colleagues high marks for their dedication and competence. He emphasized that freedom and justice “are not a part time thing,” and need to be nourished and respected both in the present and future.





# Preview of Interview of Justice R. Fred Lewis

*By Stanley and Susan Rosenblatt*

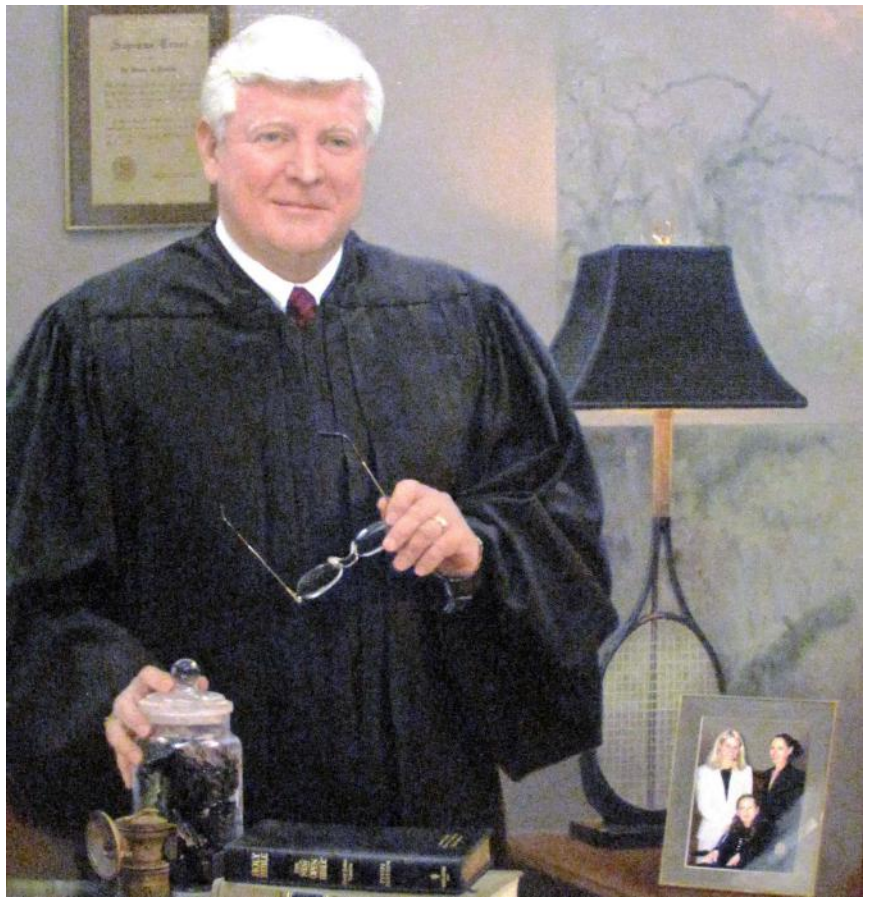
We recently had the privilege of interviewing Justice R. Fred Lewis about his life and judicial service on the Florida Supreme Court. An in-depth article will follow in the next edition of the Society's magazine. Here are some highlights.

Loyalty and dedication are central to Justice Lewis' character. This is demonstrated by his relationships with employers, family, friends, the community and his country. While his classmates were demonstrating against America's involvement in the Vietnam War, Justice Lewis was active in the military and particularly ROTC. He proudly wore his military uniform during law school at the University of Miami. Justice Lewis is loyal to his country.

Justice Lewis' first legal job was during his freshman year at UM law school, as a law clerk to a successful downtown Miami appellate attorney, Ed Perse. He needed a job to survive financially and had never planned to be an appellate and trial attorney. The two bonded and their close friendship lasted for decades, until Ed Perse's life was cut short by cancer. During his last illness, Justice Lewis visited his friend daily. Justice Lewis is a loyal friend.

Justice Lewis is also loyal to his roots in Beckley, West Virginia. Coal mining was the primary occupation in Beckley. Today, sadly, the primary sources of income in Beckley are monetary benefits from black lung disease and social security disability benefits. Justice Lewis speaks lovingly of his compassionate teachers in West Virginia who provided him with much needed structure, encouragement and support following the untimely death of his mother while he was in middle school. Growing up in Beckley, teachers were the hierarchy and "on the top of everything," being highly respected in the community. His teachers were critical in Justice Lewis' development and success and he remains loyal to them today.

After his mother's death, Justice Lewis and his father became a 'team' and became very close. When he was offered an opportunity to attend college in Florida on a basketball and academic scholarship, his dad did not stand in his way. As Justice Lewis explains: "They offered me to go to heaven." After retiring from a lifetime of working in the coal mines, his father moved to Tallahassee to live with his son's family, Justice and Mrs. Judy Lewis and daughters Elle and Lindsay. Although he had a long term risky occupation, Justice Lewis emphasizes that his dad did not smoke or drink and lived till 102, residing with the Lewis family. Justice Lewis was loyal and dedicated to his father.



The Lewis' daughter Lindsay was born with a rare mitochondrial progressive disorder and outlived her limited life expectancy by many years. Those of us fortunate enough to have spent some time with Lindsay will agree that Lindsay was a charming and intelligent young woman who enjoyed life with her loving parents and sister. Lindsay was an integral part of the Lewis family in every way, attending Court functions, luncheons and dinners. The Lewis' family lost Lindsay Marie Lewis at age 26 in March, 2012. Justice Lewis was always loyal and dedicated to Lindsay.

It is a tribute to Justice and Mrs. Lewis that their arms and home embraced family members with challenges. Justice Lewis noted that Tallahassee was a gentler place for Lindsay and his dad to live.

Justice Lewis is also dedicated and loyal to his community. At the initiative of then Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis of the Florida Supreme Court, in 2006 the Justice Teaching Program was developed. Justice Teaching has grown and flourished under Justice Lewis' guidance. It has been a hands-on mission for Justice Lewis who travels throughout the state speaking to students. "Our goal is to promote an understanding of Florida's justice system and our laws, develop critical thinking abilities and problem-solving skills, and demonstrate the effective interaction of our courts within the constitutional structure." See: [justiceteaching.org](http://justiceteaching.org). Students in public and private schools throughout Florida meet and hear from judges and attorneys who explain to them the basic elements of the constitution and individuals' rights.

Justice Lewis is dedicated and loyal to the people of Florida with his unwavering commitment to the Justice Teaching Program.

Finally, Justice Lewis is dedicated and loyal to his loving wife, the former Judith (Judy) Munc, their daughter Elle Lewis Anderson, an engineer residing in Houston, Texas with her husband Clarke and their two daughters, Justice and Mrs. Lewis' beloved granddaughters, Ellison and Evans Anderson.



# Upcoming Society Events



## Please Visit the FSCHS Tent at the Kozyak Minority Mentoring Picnic on February 3, 2018

The Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation aims to use mentoring as a platform to increase diversity in the legal profession. The annual Minority Mentoring Picnic (MMP) has been the Foundation's premier annual event since 2004. The MMP has grown each year and is well attended by many judges, established lawyers and law students from every school in Florida. Every student, lawyer and judge who attends the MMP has the opportunity to find a mentor or mentee in a fun and informal setting. This year's event will be held at Zoo Miami! Although much of the Foundation's early efforts were dedicated to providing mentors for black law students, the Foundation's Annual Minority Mentoring Picnic provides opportunities for all minority law students.

This is the second year the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society will have a tent at the MMP to show its support for this important organization and its cause. The tent will also facilitate the Society's efforts to educate those in the legal profession about the Society, its activities and publications.

Although the MMP is its signature event, the Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation is active throughout the year. It has a Summer Fellowship Program where it awards summer fellowships to first and second year minority law students. The Foundation also works with voluntary bar associations to find mentors for minority law students attending law schools throughout Florida.



Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy Quince with John Kozyak at the 2011 picnic

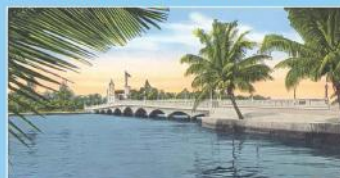
## NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF NEW BOOK

***'From Brooklyn to Biscayne Bay and on to Tallahassee: The Remarkable Story of Former Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerald Kogan'*** by Seth H. Bramson

Seth H. Bramson, a prolific author of Florida history, recently published his 29th book, a biography of former Justice Kogan. The book traces Justice Kogan's career before joining our state's high court: as a prosecutor, defense attorney and trial judge. The book also focuses on Justice Kogan's rise to the Florida Supreme Court in 1987, and his 12 years of service until mandatory retirement. The author also details Justice Kogan's interesting roots and family life, and his over 60-year partnership with his wife Irene. A book review will appear in the next edition of the FSCHS magazine.

Available at  
**amazon**

**From Brooklyn to Biscayne Bay and on to Tallahassee**



**The Remarkable Story of Former Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerald Kogan**



***From Brooklyn to Biscayne Bay and on to Tallahassee***

Ordinarily, biographies are written about deceased individuals, the operative word there being "ordinarily." But the subject of this biography is anything but "ordinary," and, in fact, the key and proper word to describe the life of Gerald Kogan is, simply put, "extraordinary."

Former Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerald Kogan is a most unique person, and in this book the reader will be taken from his birth in Brooklyn to his family's move to Miami Beach, his schooling at Miami Beach High School and the University of Miami and on to a life and career so exemplary that it was necessary for this book to be written to tell that story.

Readers will be, in some cases enthralled, in some delighted, in some shocked, but in most warmly appreciative of what a great man has done not just for friends and family and those around him but, without exaggeration, an entire state, and Florida is unquestionably a better and greater state because of the judicial decisions and opinions rendered by the man who many refer to as "the finest Chief Justice in the state's history." This is that story, and you, our readers, will be greatly enriched by the life's work of one extraordinary human being.





# YOUR INVITATION TO PRESERVE HISTORY

We are inviting you to help support vital programs that are preserving and honoring the long and proud history of the Supreme Court of Florida by joining as a proud member of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society.

Your tax-deductible membership into the **Florida Supreme Court Historical Society** (FSCHS) will show your commitment to commemorating and preserving the milestones of Florida's judiciary. Please support the efforts of the Historical Society on this year's Florida Bar Fee Statement or complete the membership form below.

Your membership into the **Florida Supreme Court Historical Society** funds these projects and more...

- ◆ Funding of the Oral History Projects that records the rich history of the Court from retired Justices
- ◆ Commissioning of the official portraits of five of the Justices
- ◆ Funding the research and publishing of the *History of the Florida Supreme Court*, Vol. I, II & III
- ◆ Sponsoring the 'Passing of the Gavel Ceremony' for the incoming Chief Justices
- ◆ Assistance to the Court in finding unique ways to publicly commemorate historical milestones
- ◆ Publishing of the *Historia Juris Newsletter* & *The Florida Supreme Court Historical Society Review*
- ◆ Lifetime Achievement Awards to recognize outstanding achievement in the preservation of Florida's judicial history
- ◆ Ongoing efforts to acquire significant artifacts from the history of Florida's Court



The simple truth is, funding for these types of projects is drying up from traditional sources. That is why it is essential now, more than ever, for you and along with our Florida Bar colleagues to fill this important funding need. If not us, then who will?

Please join the Historical Society online at [FCourtHistory.org](http://FCourtHistory.org) or complete and return the form below. Either way your commitment at any level would be greatly valued.

## FSCHS 2018 MEMBERSHIP ACCEPTANCE

### Annual Membership Check one, please

- Student  \$25.00  
Young Lawyers Members  \$50.00  
Paralegals  \$50.00  
Individual  \$100.00

### Special Recognition Levels

- Contributor  \$500.00  
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### Three convenient ways to return your Membership Acceptance Form

- Online:** [FLCourtHistory.org](http://FLCourtHistory.org) All Major Credit Cards & PayPal accepted online  
**By Check:** Please make payable to: **FSCHS** 1947 Greenwood Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303  
**By Credit Card:**  MasterCard  Visa  AmEx  Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ CVCode \_\_\_\_\_

Your credit card information will be utilized for a one-time PayPal transaction marked "SUP CT HIST" or "FL SUPR CT HIST SOC" on your statement. I authorize the use of my card for the Society to conduct this PayPal transaction.

Authorizing Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Return your Membership by:** **FAX:** 850:201.2947 **EMAIL:** [Admin@FLCourtHistory.org](mailto:Admin@FLCourtHistory.org)  
**US Mail:** FSCHS 1947 Greenwood Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303

Dues and contributions to the FSCHS, Inc., are tax-deductible for charitable purposes to the extent allowed by law, and 100 percent of each dues contribution is received by this organization. The Society's IRS tax identification number, for your records, is 59-2287922. Florida non-profit registration number: SC-09634



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