

## Foreclosure Program Back Up and Running

It only took one year without it for Florida lawmakers to realize special funding was needed back in the state court system to help circuits deal with the serious backlog of foreclosures. Initial monies funded a year-long program for FY 2010-11; the 17th Circuit used its share to clear thousands in the backlog. A year without the program was an eye opener, as the foreclosure case backlog slowly inched back up to 2010 numbers of more than 50,000.

With funding renewed for FY 2012-13, the 17th Circuit was able to re-establish a foreclosure case management department, consisting of two legal secretaries, six case managers, and a case management supervisor. The group is already hard at work, sorting through cases going back to 2008, while managing the steady stream of new filings coming in daily. In any given day, more than 100 cases are scheduled on the division docket, with Judge Haury and Judge Lazarus on the bench.



A new addition to the program this year is a pro-se desk set up in the common area on the fifth floor. Here, litigants representing themselves can get assistance from the case managers to schedule their court dates, or reset them in cases of emergency. The help desk is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am - 12:00pm, and has been a very helpful tool for the general public.

"The foreclosure case management team is here to ensure that the foreclosure judicial process runs as smoothly as possible and to provide opportunities for self-represented litigants to be heard in court," says Kasinda Swain, Foreclosure Case Management Supervisor.

With all the good this program does, and will do, for the foreclosure division, it is hopeful that lawmakers will continue to allocate funds in the future.

## Judge Ehrlich Continues Creative Community Service

Always coming up with new and unique ways to engage the children who come before her in court, Juvenile Delinquency Judge Ehrlich presented "Project Awareness: Physical Disabilities" to a packed courtroom on October 5.

A group from West Broward High's American Sign Language Club performed "Helping America Notice Deaf Society" and "hands on" interactive centers were set up to allow the juveniles to experience what it feels like to have a physical disability. A movie and award presentations followed.

Children who chose to attend the event earned community service hours towards their sentences, while learning about the disabled community and how it's possible to excel in life with physical challenges.

Sponsors for the event included Lighthouse for the Blind, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Center for Hearing and Communication, Department of Juvenile Justice and the Broward School Board.

## New Hires

Tiffanie Moore - Case Management 7/17  
Craig Sherritt - Drug Court 7/30  
David Baker - Foreclosure 7/30  
Donsha Brown - Foreclosure 7/30  
Velmyre Seignon - Foreclosure 7/30  
Richard Kearley - Foreclosure 7/30  
Govardhani Meduri - JIS 8/20  
Marilena DiLiddo - GM Assistant 9/4  
Corey King - Trial Court Law Clerk 9/4  
Lynette Merritt Lott - JA 9/4  
Marissa Diaz - Probate 9/24  
Munera Al-Fuhaid - Case Management 9/24  
Theresa Washington - Foreclosure 9/14  
Douglas Galvan - Foreclosure 9/14  
Sunil Zachariah - Foreclosure 9/14

## New Retires

Linda Maina - JA 9/28

Creative Community Service Hours

SPECIAL EVENT

PROJECT AWARENESS: PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

(October is Physical Disabilities Month)

....Get ready for a "Hands – On" experience!

....Hate and Bullying are born of ignorance.

Walk away from this experience educated and enlightened.

WHEN: FRIDAY, October, 5, 2012, at 3 p.m.

WHERE: Courtroom 4840

Attendance/Participation: 20 hours community service hours

Essay (what you learned): 10 additional community service hours

Partners: Lighthouse for the Blind II

- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Center for Hearing and Communication
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Broward County School Board

Look forward to  
seeing you there  
Judge Merridel Eshel

## PROGRAM

### PROJECT AWARENESS: PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, Oct. 5, 2012

Enter "disabled".

Welcome ..... "Imagine": Judge Ehrlich

West Broward High School 's American Sign Language Club performs H.A.N.D.S.

(Helping America Notice Deaf Society)

YOU may remove your "physical disability" to appreciate the performance using all of your physical abilities.

Break-out Groups:      BLIND                      DEAF                      PARALYZED

Short funny movie

Introductions & Show of Appreciation for our Partners who helped make this Idea a Reality

Certificates: Attendance (20) and Essay(10) about what you learned for a total of 30 community service hours.

Judge Merrilee Ehrlich

# *PROJECT AWARENESS*

## *“Physical Disability”*

20 Community Service Hours

- Hate and bullying is ignorant and small-minded.
- I learned. I understand. We shared.
- I am no longer ignorant.
- We are more similar than we are different.
- I embrace our differences and our similarities.
- I welcome making a new friend.

*Presented to:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Merrilee Ehrlich

October 5, 2012

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Date