



Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

Michelle Kennedy, Public Information Officer

2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way ♦ Viera, Florida 32940

Email: michelle.kennedy@flcourts18.org

♦Tel: (321) 637-5355

♦Fax: (321) 633-2172

For Immediate Release

June 3, 2014

STATEMENT FROM CHIEF JUDGE JOHN M. HARRIS:

As Chief Judge, I want to assure the public that yesterday's incident involving a county court judge and an assistant public defender is not something that will ever be tolerated in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit. This isolated event in no way reflects the typical manner that courtrooms in Brevard and Seminole Counties are managed by the hardworking and conscientious judges in this circuit. People come to court seeking justice and a peaceful resolution to their conflicts and they have the right to expect a much higher standard of behavior from our judges than was exhibited in court yesterday.

All of our judges, including Judge Murphy, fully understand this and to that end, and with the fullest cooperation from Judge Murphy, I have temporarily reassigned all of his pending cases to other judges. Moreover, Judge Murphy has agreed to seek anger management counseling and treatment during a temporary leave of absence.

As Chief Judge, I will continue to work with all of our judges to ensure that we meet our responsibilities to the public in a manner that is worthy of the trust and confidence placed in us. At this time, it would be inappropriate for me to comment any further on the incident, the leave of absence, or any future reassignment of cases.

###