

# Fact Sheet 2012



## The Florida Judicial Branch, 2012

### Florida Judicial Facts

The Supreme Court is the highest of state courts consisting of seven members, two of them women.

Rosemary Barkett, former FCSW Commissioner and Women's Hall of Fame Inductee, is the first woman to serve on the Florida Supreme Court.



In Florida's District Court, there are 15 female judges and 61 male judges.

Only two female Judges serve as Chief Judges in Florida's District Court.

### Source for Historical Figures:

<http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/>

<http://www.flcourts.org/>

<http://dliis.dos.state.fl.us/figils/flgov.html>

### Florida Commission on the Status of Women

Office of the Attorney General  
The Capitol, PL-01  
Tallahassee, FL  
32399-1050  
Phone:  
(850) 414-3300  
Fax: (850) 921-4131  
[www.fcsw.net](http://www.fcsw.net)

## Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court is the highest of state courts and it consists of seven members, each appointed by the governor, and confirmed by a vote in the general election.
- Each of the seven Justices are appointed for a six-year term and then select one of their own to be the Chief Justice for a two-year term.
- Rosemary Barkett is the first woman to serve on the Florida Supreme Court in 1985 and the first woman ever to be chosen by her colleagues to become the state's first woman Chief Justice in 1992.
  - Honorable Barkett was a former Commissioner on the Florida Commission on the Status of Women from 1993-1995.
- Honorable Barkett was also inducted into Florida Women's Hall of Fame in 1986.
- Only three women have served on the Supreme Court: Honorable Rosemary Barkett, Justice Barbara Pariente and Justice Peggy A. Quince.



- Justice Pariente and Justice Quince currently hold two in seven judicial seats in the Florida Supreme Court.
- Justice Barbara Pariente serves on the 4th district. She is the second woman to serve on Florida's Supreme Court, has served on the court since 1997 and as its Chief Justice from 2004-2006.
  - Justice Pariente was also inducted into the 2007/2008 Florida Women's Hall of Fame.
- Justice Peggy A. Quince serves on the 2nd district. She is the first Black female Justice of the Florida Supreme Court and the third female Justice.
  - Justice Quince is the second African American and the third woman to serve as Chief Justice.
  - Justice Quince was also inducted into the 2006/2007 Florida Women's Hall of Fame.

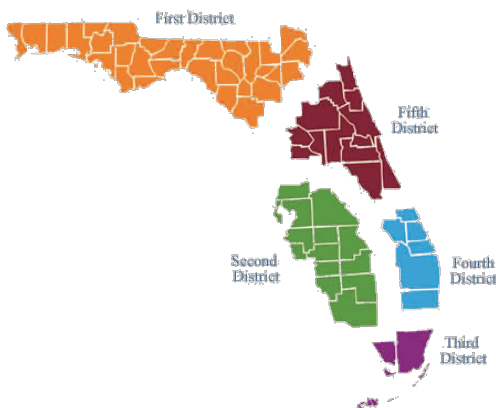


## District Court of Appeals

- Florida did not have district courts of appeal until 1957. Before then, all appeals were heard solely by the Supreme Court.
- Due to the Supreme Court's docket congestion and Florida's rapid growth in the 20th century, the Legislature divided the State into Appellate Court Districts and district court of Appeal serving each district.
- There are five districts headquartered in Tallahassee, Lakeland, Miami, West Palm Beach, and Daytona Beach.
- District court Judges serve six year terms and are eligible for successive terms under a merit retention vote of the electors in their districts.

- In each district court, a chief judge is selected by the district court of judges within the district and they are responsible for the administrative duties of the court.
- Women hold a total of 20% of judicial seats, while men make up a total of 80% of Florida's District Court.
- The district with the highest female judges is the 1st district with 5 women out of 15 judges.
- The district with the lowest female judges is the 5th district. The 5th district has only 1 female judge out of ten judges.
- There are only two female Chief Judges, Chief Judge Linda Ann Wells and Chief Judge Melanie G. May.

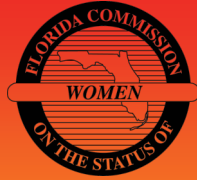
### District Court Map, 2012



### District Court Ranking of Female Judges in Each District

Rank	Female District Judges out of total Judges in Each District	% of Female Judges in Each District
1 <sup>st</sup> District	5/15	33%
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	3/10	30%
4 <sup>th</sup> District	3/12	25%
2 <sup>nd</sup> District	3/14	21%
5 <sup>th</sup> District	1/10	10%

# Fact Sheet 2012



# The Florida Judicial Branch, 2012

## More Fun Florida Judicial Facts

In Florida's Circuit Courts, 30% are female judges.

The circuit with the lowest female judges is the 16th circuit with no female judges.

The circuit with the highest female judges is the 11th circuit with 45 female judges and 41 male judges.



In Florida's county court, 34% are female judges.

38 Counties currently do not have any female county judges.

The counties with the highest percentage of female county judges are Osceola, Sarasota, and Lake County.

Only two female Judges serve as Chief Judges in Florida's Trial Courts.

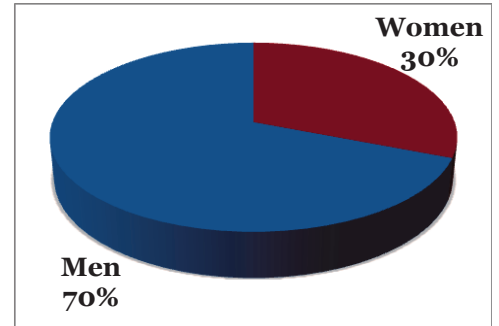
**Florida  
Commission  
on the Status of  
Women**

**Office of the  
Attorney General  
The Capitol, PL-01  
Tallahassee, FL  
32399-1050  
Phone:  
(850) 414-3300  
Fax: (850) 921-4131  
www.fcsw.net**

## Circuit Courts

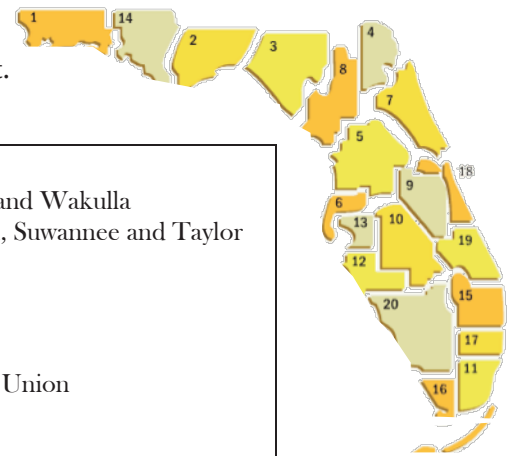
- The circuit courts is the state's highest trial court.
- The state is divided into 20 judicial circuits and circuit judges are elected to six-year terms.
- In each circuit, a chief judge is chosen from among the circuit judges and county judges.
- Within each circuit, there may be any number of judges, depending upon the population and caseload of that particular area.
- The circuit court with the highest number of female judges is the eleventh circuit with 52% female Judges.
- The circuit court with the lowest number of female judges is the sixteenth circuit with no female judges.
- There are only two female Chief Judges, Chief Judge Leandra G. Johnson and Chief Judge Martha Ann Lott.

Circuit Court by Gender, 2012



## Distribution of Circuit Courts in Florida

**First Circuit** - Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton  
**Second Circuit** - Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla  
**Third Circuit** - Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Taylor  
**Fourth Circuit** - Clay, Duval and Nassau  
**Fifth Circuit** - Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion and Sumter  
**Sixth Circuit** - Pasco and Pinellas  
**Seventh Circuit** - Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia,  
**Eighth Circuit** - Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union  
**Ninth Circuit** - Orange and Osceola  
**Tenth Circuit** - Hardee, Highlands, and Polk  
**Eleventh Circuit** - Dade  
**Twelfth Circuit** - DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota  
**Thirteenth Circuit** - Hillsborough  
**Fourteenth Circuit** - Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson and Washington  
**Fifteenth Circuit** - Palm Beach  
**Sixteenth Circuit** - Monroe  
**Seventeenth Circuit** - Broward  
**Eighteenth Circuit** - Brevard and Seminole  
**Nineteenth Circuit** - Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie  
**Twentieth Circuit** - Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee



## County Courts

- A county court is established in each of Florida's 67 counties.
- The number of judges in each county depends on the population and caseload of each county.
- At least one county court judge is specified for each county and are elected to six-year terms.
- 38 Counties currently do not have any female county judges.
- Sarasota, Osceola, and Lake county have the highest percentage of female county judges in Florida.

County Court by Gender, 2012

