

Supreme Court of Florida

IN RE: ACCESS TO JUSTICE TASK FORCE

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS family law cases represent both the highest percentage of total filings and the highest percentage of pro se filings in the trial courts of Florida; and

WHEREAS this self-help staff have an estimated 116,000 in-person and 184,000 telephone contacts with self-represented family law litigants annually; and

WHEREAS this Court recognizes that all litigants, whether they are represented by counsel or are self represented, are entitled to meaningful access to the courts; and

WHEREAS the Chief Justice previously established an Ad Hoc Pro Se Committee, consisting of representatives from the bar and the court system, for the purpose of improving the delivery of judicial and legal services to all litigants through a better working relationship with the bench, bar, and legal services groups and by addressing related policy issues; and

WHEREAS the Chief Justice designated a Florida team to participate in the American Judicature Society's National Conference on Pro Se Litigation, held November 1999 in

Scottsdale, Arizona, and said team attended the conference and reported back to the Ad Hoc Committee on December 13, 1999; and

WHEREAS the ad hoc committee accepted the team's recommendation that Florida replicate the national conference.

THEREFORE pursuant to the administrative authority conferred by article V, section 2 of the Florida Constitution and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.030(a)(2)(B)(v),

IT IS ORDERED that the ad hoc committee shall be reconstituted as the Access to Justice Task Force. The Task Force shall give attention to the following tasks:

1. Coordinate Florida's Conference on Pro Se Litigation which shall include teams from each circuit court.

2. Develop plans to facilitate local collaborative efforts to ensure that legal services are available and affordable.

3. Make recommendations to the Supreme Court on how to build a system of services that improves access to a fair, timely, and meaningful resolution by informed family law litigants.

The following persons are appointed to serve on the committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2000:

The Honorable Major B. Harding, Chair
Chief Justice, Florida Supreme Court

The Honorable Karen Cole
Circuit Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit

Ms. Jeannie Etter
Attorney at Law, Miami

Mr. Michael Gora
Attorney at Law, Boca Raton

Mr. Tom Genung
Family Court Administrator, Seventeenth Judicial
Circuit

Mr. Jack Harkness
Executive Director, The Florida Bar

The Honorable Pauline M. Drayton-Harris
County Judge, Duval County

Mr. Ky Koch
Attorney at Law, Clearwater

Mr. Carroll L. McCauley
Attorney at Law, Panama City

Ms. Edith Osman
President, The Florida Bar

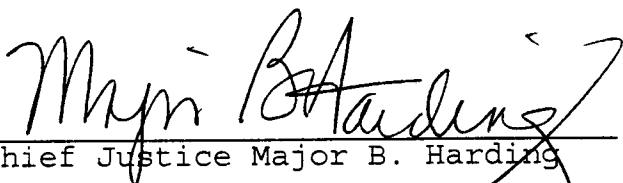
The Honorable Barbara J. Pariente
Justice, Florida Supreme Court

The Honorable George Reynolds
Chief Judge, Second Judicial Circuit

Mr. Kent Spuhler
Director, Florida Legal Services

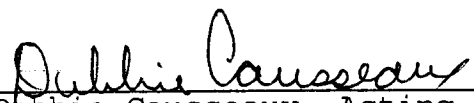
Staff support for the Access to Justice Task Force will be
provided by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on, January 7,
2000.



Chief Justice Major B. Harding

ATTEST:



Debbie Causseaux, Acting Clerk

