

Gilbert S. Goshorn, Jr.
10419 S.W. 75th Way
Gainesville, FL 32608

February 22, 2002

The Honorable Charles T. Wells
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Florida
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chief Justice Wells,

The Committee on the Appointment and Assignment of Senior Judges has completed the work assigned to it by the Supreme Court. Please find enclosed the Report and Recommendations of the committee.

In addressing the central issues regarding the qualifications and assignments of senior judges, the members of the committee initially expressed very divergent views. I am pleased to report that, following extensive deliberation over the course of several meetings, members of the committee came to appreciate the various perspectives and concerns presented, and moved toward a consensus view that accommodated those concerns. The result is a set of recommendations that outline a system for the assignment of senior judges that the committee believes provides a high degree of accountability, while retaining respect for those individuals who continue to provide valuable judicial service to the people of Florida as senior judges. The committee believe that the proposed system appropriately allocates responsibility for the assignment of senior judges between the chief justice and the chief judges of the circuit courts, and if fully implemented would provide Florida with a highly qualified pool of senior judges for many years to come.

I know that I speak for the entire committee in expressing appreciation for the opportunity to study this important issue. The members of the committee worked diligently and in good faith, and are to be commended for their service and commitment to the justice system of this state. I commend these recommendations to you and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gilbert S. Goshorn, Jr., Chair
Senior Judge