



NEWS FROM:
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Former Prosecutor Joins Office of the Public Defender *New attorneys in Felony, Juvenile and County Court Units*

Jacksonville, FL: There are some new faces in the Office for Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk. For a second time within months, an Assistant State Attorney has accepted an appointment to become an Assistant Public Defender. In all, there is a new APD in the Major Crimes Unit, one in the Felony Unit and one each in the County Court and Juvenile Units.

Phyllis Wiley is the newest APD in the Major Crimes Unit; she rejoins the P.D. Office after spending the last year with the State Attorney Office as Division Chief in the Domestic Battery Unit. She brings prior experience as a partner in a private firm, as a litigator for the General Counsel and several years in the P.D. Office. The Jacksonville native earned her J.D. from The American University Washington College of Law and a B.S. from University of Florida. Ms. Wiley is a mother of two, active in youth athletics, the local arts community and several professional legal organizations. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Bethel Baptist Institutional Church.

Jason B. Snyder is also new to the Felony Unit; he becomes APD in the Repeat Offender Division. He spent nearly two years with a local, private law firm handling complex commercial litigation. Prior to that, Mr. Snyder served as APD in the Fifth Circuit (Marion County/Ocala) for three years. Additionally, he served as a staff attorney with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. Mr. Snyder earned his J.D. in '02 at Rutgers University School of Law in New Jersey and his B.A. at James Madison University in Virginia.

De'Anna Hines is the newest APD in the County Court Unit. The Huntsville, AL native begins her first job as a practicing attorney in the P.D. office; she is an '09 graduate of Florida Coastal School of Law. Prior to law school she spent five years working in athletics, including serving as an Athletic Director at a private Atlanta high school, coaching college level volleyball and working as a college Sports Information Director. Ms. Hines is a fourth-generation graduate of Alabama A&M University ('01); she attended on athletic scholarship and was named South Western Athletic Conference Volleyball Player of the Year as a senior.

Hugh Wilkinson joins the Public Defender's Office in the Juvenile Unit, presently serving as a certified, out-of-state attorney. He comes to Jacksonville from Long Island, N.Y. where he has spent the last three years handling commercial litigation and family law in a private law firm. Prior to that, he was a teacher. Mr. Wilkinson is a 2000 graduate of Florida Coastal School of Law and a 1997 graduate of the New York Institute of Technology.

"We continue to receive an influx of resumes from highly qualified attorneys who want to serve the Fourth Circuit as Assistant Public Defenders," said Shirk. "I am thrilled with our four most recent hires; it is my goal to appoint the best and brightest applicants so we can continue to provide our clients with the most effective legal representation that they deserve."

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APD Phyllis Wiley, Major Crimes Unit



APD Jason Snyder, Felony Unit



APD De'Anna Hines, County Court Unit



APD Hugh Wilkinson, Juvenile Unit