



**NEWS FROM:**  
**Office of Public Defender**  
**Matt Shirk, Fourth Circuit**  
[www.MattShirkPublicDefender.com](http://www.MattShirkPublicDefender.com)

**Contact: Matt Bisbee**  
**Public Information Officer**  
**Tel: (904)630-7350**  
[MPB@PD4.COJ.net](mailto:MPB@PD4.COJ.net)

---

---

For Immediate Release

December 28, 2009

## **Bedell Named Director of Clay County P.D. Office**

*Shirk promotes Division Chief to become second female legal Unit Director in Administration*

Green Cove Springs, FL: A diverse legal background, a unique courtroom talent and a keen management sense has propelled Assistant Public Defender Kate Bedell to become the new Director of Clay County for the Office of Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk. Ms. Bedell will oversee a staff of seven attorneys, one investigator and three support team members.

“Kate has demonstrated a tremendous administrative ability serving in Duval County as a Felony Unit Division Chief,” said Shirk. “Our Clay County office continues to see a large caseload and the Directorship is a key position in this Circuit. I have full faith in Kate’s abilities as an attorney and as a manager as she leads our office in Green Cove Springs.”



*APD/Director Clay County Kate Bedell*

Kate Bedell becomes the second female to be named a legal Director in the Shirk Administration. She started with the Fourth Circuit Public Defender’s office in September of this year where she was named Division Chief in the Circuit Court Unit. For nearly seven years prior, she worked as an Assistant State Attorney in Duval and Clay Counties, most recently serving as a high level prosecutor in the Special Operations Unit.

“It’s an honor to accept this promotion and I am excited to work with the terrific staff in the Clay County Office of the Public Defender,” said Bedell. “There are certainly going to be challenges as growth in the county translates to a larger case count for the office. However, we have a strong, capable team in place, and I’m certain we will succeed in providing our clients with the quality representation they deserve and the Constitution requires. This is a wonderful opportunity for me both personally and professionally.”

Ms. Bedell earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida, Levin College of Law in 2002. Her Bachelor’s work was completed at Jacksonville University. A third-generation resident of Duval County, Kate’s family is involved in the local arts community. Just recently, she joined the Board of Directors for The Art Center Cooperative Inc., a local not-for-profit organization dedicated to excellence and recognition of area artists and quality of life for the City of Jacksonville.

---

---



Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk and  
APD/Clay County Director Kate Bedell



Partial staff of Clay County Public Defender's Office  
Front: (L-R) Kathy Tinkler, Sherry Kennedy Back: (L-R)  
Matt Shirk, APD Curt Davidson, Director Kate Bedell, Beth Frill