



NEWS FROM:
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Hunold Appointed to JALA Board of Directors



Jacksonville, FL (March 18, 2011): Assistant Public Defender Cynthia Hunold (pictured) is the newest member of the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) Board of Directors. The appointment became effective February 15th. In this role, she joins the 24-member Board that oversees the operations of JALA, a 30-year old agency dedicated to providing high quality legal representation to low-income clients with civil legal problems. JALA serves a Northeast Florida region including the Counties of Duval, Clay, Nassau and St. Johns.

“JALA provides critical services to so many deserving, but less fortunate people here in Northeast Florida,” said Ms. Hunold. “A bad economy has hit our area especially hard and now more than ever people are in dire need of civil legal services. It is a privilege to join this Board and get the chance to work with some of the area’s highly respected legal minds. I am excited to bring my experience in indigent criminal defense and understanding of a low income constituency to help JALA and its clients with the variety of challenges they face.”

Michael Figgins who serves as Executive Director for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid added, “As a representative of the Office of the Public Defender, Cynthia brings an essential insight to the JALA board. JALA is proud to have Cynthia’s experience to guide JALA in the future.”

A 23-year veteran of Public Defense in Jacksonville, Ms. Hunold presently serves as Director of the County Court Unit in the Law Offices of Public Defender Matt Shirk. She manages a team of 11 attorneys, four legal assistants and two paralegals. Additionally, she coordinates the legal intern program and Public Defender Pro Bono Opportunities. She earned her law degree from Stetson University College of Law.

“Cynthia Hunold is a logical and commendable choice for the JALA Board of Directors,” said Public Defender Matt Shirk. “We share parallel missions, similar obstacles and often the same clients so it makes a lot of sense to have PD representation on the Board. I join her colleagues in congratulating her on the appointment and anticipate building new partnerships with JALA.”
