



NEWS FROM:
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Public Defender Office Welcomes New Staff in Fall 2011

Jacksonville, FL (October 12, 2011): The Office of Fourth Judicial Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk welcomes new staff in the Fall of 2011. Two new attorneys join the Duval County Office as Assistant Public Defenders (APD's), both in the Misdemeanor Court Unit. Additionally, a new Mitigation Specialist/Investigator joins the Capital Crimes Unit.



Gary Shumard accepted an appointment to the County Court Unit on September 12th. Originally from Wauchula, FL, he graduated from Wake Forest University School of Law in Winston-Salem, NC in May. He earned a B.A. in English from the University of Florida. As a student, Mr. Shumard served as a Law Clerk in Florida's 10th Judicial Circuit as well as an intern in both District Attorney and Public Defender Offices in North Carolina. In his free time he is active in coaching youth basketball.



Robert Terry was named APD in the County Court Unit on September 23rd. The Jacksonville native spent nine years in law enforcement, five as a Sheriff's Deputy in St. Johns County before he began pursuing a law degree. In May 2011 he earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Florida, Levin College of Law. Prior to that, he completed the Public Administration Program at Flagler College in 2007. He is married with one daughter.



Joanna Pajcic joins the Capital Crimes Unit as an Investigator/Mitigation Specialist. Her appointment took effect September 5th. Previously, she was a fifth-generation police officer in the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office where she spent eight years before leaving the workforce to raise a family. At JSO, she holds the distinction as being the first-ever female to serve as a Detective in Robbery. Ms. Pajcic is a Jacksonville native and attended The University of North Florida. She and her husband Curt live in Jacksonville with their three children.
