



**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)

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For Immediate Release

September 14, 2010

## **PD Office Enlisting Participants for ‘*Pro Bono Opportunities*’ Fall Training**

Jacksonville, FL: In conjunction with the Jacksonville Bar Association and the Florida Bar Foundation’s OnePromiseFlorida.org, Fourth Judicial Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk is hosting a third *Pro Bono Opportunities* criminal law training course for interested, private attorneys in the Jacksonville area.

The session is open to all attorneys in the Fourth Judicial Circuit, no criminal law experience is necessary. It will be held on Friday October 15<sup>th</sup> in the First Floor Conference Room of the Public Defender Office and will feature five separate, CLE courses touching on different aspects of criminal law. Upon completion of the training session, participants will be appointed as Special Assistant Public Defenders (SAPD’s) and become eligible for a later assignment to one misdemeanor case.

“We have several people enlisted to participate in our third, *Pro Bono Opportunities* training program and there is certainly room for more,” said APD Cynthia Hunold, Director of County Court in the PD Office. “To date this has been a valuable program for our community; the clients receive great attention, the SAPD gets hands-on experience and it benefits all taxpayers because the burgeoning caseload handled by APD’s is minimized.”

Several participants from training sessions earlier in 2010 have since completed their first case as SAPD and even requested a second case. Many of them agree that the Pro Bono work through the PD Office has been a rewarding experience.

“I originally thought the Public Defender’s program would just be a good opportunity for younger lawyers to gain courtroom experience, and hopefully trial experience,” participating Attorney Bill Scheu told local media. “But then I thought it could also be an interesting experience for some of us older lawyers who practice in non-litigation areas — a way to get back into the courtroom after many years’ absence. So I signed up.”

Attorneys in the Fourth Judicial Circuit interested in enlisting in the *Public Defender Pro Bono Opportunities* training program on October 15<sup>th</sup> are encouraged to call or email Director Hunold at (904) 630-1578 or [cch@pd4.coj.net](mailto:cch@pd4.coj.net) by Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Additional details about the day’s program will be made available closer to the event.

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