



NEWS FROM:
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Spring 2010 Brings New Faces to Public Defender's Office

Jacksonville, FL: Fourth Judicial Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk welcomes four new attorneys to his staff. County Court, Juvenile and Felony Court Units have new faces this Spring. "We continue to strive to enhance our staff of Assistant Public Defenders; our four newest attorneys bring us a great balance of diverse experience and a strong, shared desire to zealously seek justice."



Rob Bowers, a Chicago native, graduated Florida Coastal School of Law in December 2009. He was appointed Assistant Public Defender in the Juvenile Unit in April of this year. Prior to obtaining his law degree, Mr. Bowers earned Paralegal Certification from Roosevelt University in Chicago as well as a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Western Illinois University.



Coral Messina was appointed as APD to the County Court Unit in April 2010 following a year and a half in civil litigation with the Jacksonville firm Camerlengo & Brockwell. She is a 2008 Honors graduate of Florida Coastal School of Law where she was a member of the Moot Court Honor Board. Mrs. Messina holds a B.A. in Public Relations from the University of Florida where she also graduated with Honors. The Jacksonville Beach native is an active member of the Junior League and serves as Vice Chair of the Fostering Care Committee, a member of the Professionalism Committee for the Jacksonville Bar Association and lifetime Girl Scout.



Michael Overby is a seasoned attorney in criminal defense. Having spent six years as APD in the 3rd Judicial Circuit (Lake City), Mr. Overby joins the Duval County Court Unit effective May 4. He earned his Juris Doctor in 2002 from University of Florida, Levin College of Law. The Kissimmee native also spent his undergrad years at UF majoring in criminology and playing in the marching band.



Sandra Suarez joins the Felony Court Unit. Prior legal experience includes serving as APD in the 9th Circuit (Osceola County), staff attorney for Department of Children and Families, five years as a prosecutor, an associate with a private law firm and as a sole practitioner. Before moving to Florida in 1999, Ms. Suarez spent 13 years as a school teacher. She holds a Bachelor's, Master's and Juris Doctor all from the Catholic University of Puerto Rico. She has four children and seven grandchildren.
