



NEWS FROM:
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Public Defender Makes Summer Appointments

Jacksonville, FL (July 12, 2011): Fourth Judicial Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk has appointed four new attorneys as Assistant Public Defenders (APD's). The office welcomes one new APD in each the County Court and Felony Court Units, two new APD's join the Juvenile Unit. According to Mr. Shirk, "Our office is proud to offer tremendous legal talent to our clients. They are certain to obtain the quality, effective legal representation guaranteed to them by the Constitution."



Cassidy Keshavarzi was named APD to the Duval County Court Unit on May 27th. Leading up to her start date, Ms. Keshavarzi worked part-time at Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) where she spent three months assisting a refugee immigration project. She graduated from her hometown Florida Coastal School of Law in 2010 and was admitted to the Florida Bar later that same year. In 2005 she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Telecommunications from The University of Florida. APD Keshavarzi is a present member of the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association.



Susan Faris has received appointment as APD in the Felony Court Unit (CRC) effective June 13th. Previously, she served as Assistant State Attorney in the First Judicial Circuit (Pensacola) where she was recognized for her work in domestic violence prosecution. A native of Shalimar, FL, Ms. Faris earned her Juris Doctor (J.D.) 2006 from the Florida State University College of Law and her BA from The University of Florida (UF) in 2002.



Markus A. Sermons was appointed June 20th as APD in the Juvenile Unit. Mr. Sermons most recently served in Duval County Courts as a staff attorney in probate where he spent the last year. Prior to that, he was a case manager in Duval County Adult Drug Court. Following his 2008 graduation from Florida Coastal School of Law, Mr. Sermons spent several months in training at the Office of the State Attorney. Originally from Valdosta, GA, he earned a degree in Business Administration from Valdosta State University. He and his wife Tina have five children.



Elizabeth Webb, a former part-time staff attorney, joins the Juvenile Unit as APD, effective June 2011. Ms. Webb has extensive private practice experience in Florida civil law, including work as an associate at firms in Ft. Myers, Gainesville and Jacksonville. Her specialty in employment law led her to argue before the First District Court of Appeal. Before earning a J.D. from UF College of Law in 1989, she served as a sports writer at her Maryland hometown newspaper. She earned a B.A. in Journalism from Shippensburg University. Ms. Webb and her husband Jack of 21 years have three teenagers. She is active in St. Joseph's Catholic Church and other community organizations.
