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For Immediate Release

February 16, 2010

Public Defender and State Attorney Offices Compete for Blood Donations
Shirk challenges Corey to dueling January blood drives; office producing least kisses pig

Jacksonville, FL: The Blood Alliance which serves Northeast Florida patients has higher levels in their blood bank thanks to Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk and State Attorney Angela Corey. During consecutive weeks in January, the two offices engaged in a friendly competition to see which could produce the most donated blood. That office holder would avoid 'kissing a pig.' Public Defender Matt Shirk declared victory at the completion of his office's blood drive.

"I applaud and thank all of those on our staff and who participated in our drive, but I also appreciate the efforts made by our competition," said Shirk. "The real winners here are the patients in our local clinics and hospitals; because of our contest, we have helped The Blood Alliance keep larger levels of inventory which is especially hard during winter months."



ASA Sam Garrison (L) prepares to kiss Beth The Pig. Public Defender Matt Shirk, children get close-up of event.

The commencement of the competition took place on Saturday (2/13) at the Veteran's Memorial Arena in Jacksonville during the Jacksonville University vs. Stetson Men's Basketball game. Representing State Attorney Angela Corey was senior prosecutor Sam Garrison. The public address announcer called Mr. Garrison onto center court during a time out where he joined Public Defender Matt Shirk and Beth The Pig. In front of a crowd of nearly 3000, Mr. Garrison upheld the obligation of the Office of State Attorney and kissed the pig.

Mr. Shirk commends the State Attorney's office for regularly holding blood drives and has indicated that he would like to host such events periodically as well. No further challenges to see which office can produce the most blood have been issued.