



**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)

For Immediate Release

February 22, 2010

**‘Speakers Bureau’ in PD Shirk’s Office Provides Outreach, Education**  
*APD Buncome-Williams delivers annual Black History Month Presentation to local school*

Jacksonville, FL: Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk is committed to managing an efficient administration, providing clients with effective representation and maintaining active engagement in the local community. To better engage in the sprawling three county Circuit of Northeast Florida, the first-term Public Defender has launched a Speaker’s Bureau comprised of various members of his staff.

“We have nearly 150 people on staff; they work hard every day toward advancing the core mission of the Public Defender and I am thankful for all that they do,” said Shirk. “So many of them have impressive credentials in both their education and their diverse life experiences; many also have a great



understanding and expertise in different areas of the law. Because of this, I have asked for a voluntary Speaker’s Bureau consisting of a variety of our staff members. We receive numerous requests from schools, civic clubs and neighborhood associations and we want to make ourselves available for educational and outreach purposes.”

Assistant Public Defender Melina Buncome-Williams serves as a voluntary member of the Public Defender’s Speaker’s Bureau. Her experiences as a trial lawyer are immense and for years she has been active with the Florida Bar Association’s Law Related Education Committee. “Melina’s demeanor and public speaking ability make her a perfect fit,” added Shirk.

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Buncome-Williams gave a presentation to Miss Lane’s Fifth Grade class at Ramona Boulevard Elementary School in Jacksonville. The focus of the presentation was on the contributions African-Americans have made to our modern society over the years. It is a program she presents each February in honor of Black History Month. **END**

