From:

Bridenback, Mike

Sent:

Wednesday, June 30, 2010 1:51 PM

To:

Melendi, Rick

Subject:

FW: Sr. Judge Web-Based System

Importance:

High

fyi

Michael L. Bridenback

Court Administrator 800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 604 Tampa, FL 33602 p: 813.272.5894 f: 813.301.3800 bridenml@fljud13.org www.fljud13.org



From: Charlotte Jerrett [mailto:jerrettc@flcourts.org]

Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 1:28 PM

To: Trial Court Administrators

Cc: Gary Phillips; Mandy Couch; Don Lubbers; Denise Overstreet; 'Michelle Oh'; Delcynth Schloss

Subject: Sr. Judge Web-Based System

Importance: High

Hi All,

In follow-up to our discussion during Monday's conference call, the <u>regular</u>sr. judge circuit allotments will be posted and available for payment requests tomorrow morning, July 1, 2010.

The <u>economic recovery</u> sr. judge circuit allotments will be available sometime on or after July 15, 2010. The system is still in testing and we hope to have it finished for your use around that time. As such, I am asking that you not submit payment requests for sr. judges performing work on foreclosure cases until you hear back from me that the system is ready for use.

Please keep in mind that it is critical that these resources be accounted for separately. If you have any questions please give me a call.

Thanks for your help and have a safe and restful holiday weekend.

C.

Charlotte Jerrett
Administrative Services Division
Office of the State Courts Administrator
(850) 488-9922
(850) 488-3744 fax

Albury, Janice

From:

Melendi, Rick

Sent:

Tuesday, June 29, 2010 12:15 PM

To:

Bridenback, Mike

Cc:

Wells, Tracy; Albury, Janice; Noll, Sharon

Subject:

FW: Office/Courtroom Location & Phone Numbers / Foreclosure Sections I & II

fyi

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 2:22 PM **To:** Greno, Linda; Barton, James

Cc: Noll, Sharon

Subject: FW: Office/Courtroom Location & Phone Numbers / Foreclosure Sections I & II

Judge,

For ease of use and convenience, I revised the original email contacting the office/courtroom locations and contact information.

rtm

Section I

(General Civil, Divisions A, B, C, D & F)

Judicial Office, Suite 513

Office - Phone No.: (813) 272-8572

Hearing Room - Phone No.: (813) 272-8575 Senior Judge - Phone No.: (813) 272-8571

Judicial Library, Room 515

Case Mgr. - Phone No.: (813) 272-8583 Case Mgr. - Phone No.: (813) 272-8584

Section II

(General Civil, Divisions G, H, I, J & K)

Judicial Office, Suite 422 & Courtroom 409

Office Phone No.: (813) 272-5121

Courtroom - Phone No.: (813) 272-8581 Senior Judge - Phone No.: (813) 272-5773

Room 425

Case Mgr. - Phone No.: (813) 272-8578 Case Mgr. - Phone No.: (813) 272-8579

Hickmon, Angelina

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Monday, November 08, 2010 3:45 PM

To: Hickmon, Angelina; Moreno, Elisa; Gammage, Trillany; Schatzberg, Beth

Subject: FW: 13th Circuit Foreclosure Stats.xlsx
Attachments: 13th Circuit Foreclosure Stats.xlsx

Case Managers,

Pursuant to a request made by the Office of the States Court Administrator in Tallahassee, you will need to start tracking hearings scheduled and hearings canceled data for the next two (2) months. The information that you need to capture is contained and limited to the data requested in the attached spreadsheet. As you can see the data collection is only for one week in November and December, 2010. Please take a minute to review the attached and note the weeks in the month you will gather data.

Your cooperation and assistance is greatly appreciated.

From: Albury, Janice

Sent: Monday, November 08, 2010 12:06 PM

To: Melendi, Rick

Subject: 13th Circuit Foreclosure Stats.xlsx

Valdes, Ryan

From:

Wells, Tracy

Sent:

Friday, October 08, 2010 11:25 AM

To:

Hickmon, Angelina; Moreno, Elisa; Wells, Tracy; Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany;

Sequeira, Maria; Valdes, Ryan

Cc:

Arguelles, Yasmin; Potts, Blanca; Romero, Yvonne; Davis, Sandra; Guerra, Carmen; Melendi,

Rick

Subject:

CHANGES IN STAFF ASSISTANCE

FYI,

Carmen Guerra will be assisting in **Section II Foreclosures** in Yasmin's place until further notice. Yasmin has been assigned to other duties within her department.

Thank you.

Tracy.

Gammage, Trillany

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2010 8:18 AM

To: Moreno, Elisa; Hickmon, Angelina; Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany

Cc: Wells, Tracy; Greno, Linda

Subject: Docket Annotations

Good Morning,

As a result of the increase in hearing cancellations, annotations to the docket will need to start reflecting the reason for cancellation or resetting of the hearing. This information will assist in accurately reporting the monthly data for all hearings.

Therefore, if a hearing is cancelled or reset, the annotation on the docket needs to state a reason and should read as follows:

Cancellation (why?): Annotation: affidavit review/review of documents - by whom (client review = bank, law firm review or other reason?)

Reset (why?): Annotation – client hold, document review or affidavit review - by whom (client review = bank, law firm review or other reason?)

FTA - by whom? Reason:?

Note: Please refrain from using Cancellation/Reset - Internal Review (I/R), as an annotation: unless, you provide more specificity as to the reason (e.g., affidavit review/review of documents - by whom (client review = bank, law firm review or other reason?) for the cancellation or resetting of the hearing. The reason for the cancellation/resetting will need to be entered into the comment section for purposes of the data entry.

Annotations – to be used:

No Final Judgment Packet (No FJP): Annotation = I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

No Packet: Annotation: I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

No Mortgage and Note: Annotation = I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

No Note: Annotation = I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

No Mortgage: Annotation = I/P (Insufficient Pleading or Documentation)

This annotation document/cheat sheet is a work in progress and subject to further modification as we come across other annotations that are not clear for purposes of data entry.

Moreno, Elisa

From:

Melendi, Rick

Sent:

Thursday, October 14, 2010 11:40 AM

To:

Moreno, Elisa; Hickmon, Angelina; Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany

Cc:

Greno, Linda

Subject:

Foreclosure Hearing - Cancellations Today

Good Morning,

Please provide Mike Bridenback and myself via email the information requested below in 1) and 2) immediately following the conclusion of all hearings for today or at the latest 3:45 for both Section I and II.

- 1) The total number of hearings scheduled for today a.m. /Pam. through JAWS; and,
- 2) The total number of hearings -cancelled prior to today's hearings including, those hearings cancelled at the time of the hearing.

Moreno, Elisa

From:

Melendi, Rick

Sent:

Tuesday, August 24, 2010 10:52 AM

To:

Tracy, Deb; Wells, Tracy; Sequeira, Maria; Valdes, Ryan

Cc:

Schatzberg, Beth; Hickmon, Angelina; Gammage, Trillany; Moreno, Elisa; Pisacane, Elvira

Subject:

RE: DAILY DOCKETS

As a reminder, please provide a "copy" of the original daily docket. Section I & II case managers need to retain the original.

Thanks.

From: Tracy, Deb

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 10:48 AM **To:** Wells, Tracy; Sequeira, Maria; Valdes, Ryan

Cc: Schatzberg, Beth; Hickmon, Angelina; Gammage, Trillany; Moreno, Elisa; Pisacane, Elvira; Melendi, Rick

Subject: RE: DAILY DOCKETS

I don't know who is the person for Section II, but, whoever you are, when you bring the daily docket up, would you please let me know so I can be sure to pick it up as quickly as possible? You could even just give me a call or send me an e-mail and I'll be more than happy to go down there and pick it up. ©

My number is 2-8569. Thanks!

From: Wells, Tracy

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 10:45 AM

To: Sequeira, Maria; Valdes, Ryan

Cc: Schatzberg, Beth; Hickmon, Angelina; Gammage, Trillany; Moreno, Elisa; Tracy, Deb; Pisacane, Elvira; Melendi, Rick

Subject: DAILY DOCKETS

ALERT!

All of you know that I am leaving on vacation today. In my absence, please leave the daily dockets (either at the end of each day or first thing in the morning) with the receptionist on the 6th floor of the Edgecomb.

The data entry team will pick those up daily from Alina.

Nauman, Chris

> ----Original Message----

> To: Menendez, Manuel

> Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2010 9:29 AM

From: Rowland, Dave Wednesday, October 27, 2010 2:49 PM Sent: To: Nauman, Chris Subject: FW: Scan from a DRAFT A.O. ACLU PRR ----Original Message----From: Barton, James Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2010 12:40 PM To: Menendez, Manuel Cc: Rowland, Dave Subject: RE: Scan from a DRAFT A.O. 1. This is a separate system and applies only to residential mortgage cases. We're trying to keep the system independently organized. 2. No. ----Original Message----From: Menendez, Manuel Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2010 9:55 AM To: Barton, James Cc: Rowland, Dave Subject: FW: Scan from a DRAFT A.O. Jim, answer his questions. ----Original Message----From: Rowland, Dave Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2010 9:40 AM To: Menendez, Manuel Subject: Re: Scan from a DRAFT A.O. 1. Why create this supplemental residential foreclosure AO instead of just amending the current AO? It might be confusing to have two separate AOs on the same subject. If there is a reason to have the supplemental AO stand alone perhaps the title of the AO might be changed to reference senior judges. 2. Does the clerk have any concerns with the "assignment" of the residential mortgage foreclosure cases to two new sections while still being "filed" in the lettered divisions? David A. Rowland (813) 340-3880 On Jun 22, 2010, at 9:11 AM, "Menendez, Manuel" <MENENDM@fljud13.org> wrote: > So get working on this, deadline is 10:15 a.m.

> From: DoNotReply@fljud13.org [mailto:DoNotReply@fljud13.org]

```
> Subject: Scan from a DRAFT A.O.
>
Please open the attached document. It was scanned and sent to you
> using a Xerox WorkCentre Pro.
>
Sent by: Guest [DoNotReply@fljud13.org] Number of Images: 2 Attachment
> File Type: PDF
>
WorkCentre Pro Location: Edgecomb Rm
> Device Name: WCP2128 Chief Judge
>
For more information on Xerox products and solutions, please visit
> <a href="http://www.xerox.com">http://www.xerox.com</a> <Scan001.PDF>
```

Wells, Tracy

From:

Schatzberg, Beth

Sent:

Tuesday, October 05, 2010 12:08 PM

To:

Melendi, Rick; Hickmon, Angellna; Moreno, Elisa; Gammage, Trillany

Cc: Wells, Tracy

Subject:

RE: Annotations of Daily Dockets

Sorry- the law firms are stating that they are cancelling them for Internal Review. It's now rare if cases go through.

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 12:06 PM

To: Schatzberg, Beth; Hickmon, Angelina; Moreno, Elisa; Gammage, Trillany

Cc: Weils, Tracy

Subject: RE: Annotations of Daily Dockets

Please clarify what Strike- internal review mean? It would help if you provided me an example, situation or circumstance of when this annotation would be used.

From: Schatzberg, Beth

Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 11:53 AM

To: Melendi, Rick; Hickmon, Angelina; Moreno, Elisa; Gammage, Trillany

Cc: Wells, Tracy

Subject: RE: Annotations of Daily Dockets

Based on the hearings held thus far, are we all good to write Strike - I/R (for internal review)?

Beth

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 12:18 PM

To: Hickmon, Angelina; Moreno, Elisa; Gammage, Trillany; Schatzberg, Beth

Cc: Wells, Tracy

Subject: Annotations of Daily Dockets

Good Afternoon, Ladies:

This may be a regular annotating practice in which you have already been engaged in doing; but, just in case, I need for each of you to incorporate this into your daily case management practices and start annotating on the dockets all hearings that are cancelled - by whom and why, all hearing re-sets- by whom and why (if known), and all no-shows — who no showed attorney, respondent/defendant starting today in the p.m.

Thanks.

Bridenback, Mike

From:

Menendez, Manuel

Sent:

Friday, May 07, 2010 11:58 AM

To:

Bridenback, Mike

Subject:

RE: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Program Allocations

Follow Up Flag: Flag Status:

Follow up Completed

Will you be back on Monday?

From: Bridenback, Mike

Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 11:42 AM

To: Menendez, Manuel; Barton, James; Fernandez, Gaston

Subject: FW: Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Program Allocations

We need to discuss where to cut. Attached was our original and new allocation. The new allocation is \$ 259,760 less.

The due date is Wednesday May 12.

From: Heather Thuotte-Pierson

Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 11:27 AM

To: Trial Court Chief Judges; Trial Court Administrators

Cc: Lisa Goodner; Kristine Slayden; Sharon Buckingham; Charlotte Jerrett; Dorothy Wilson; Arlene Johnson; Patty Harris;

Theresa Westerfield; Elizabeth Garber; Greg Youchock; Gary Phillips **Subject:** Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Program Allocations

Good morning,

The Legislature appropriated funding for the Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Program in the amount of \$5,955,606 for FY 2010/11 to the trial courts. These non-recurring funds will be used to provide temporary resources in the trial courts to eliminate backlog in the civil areas. We will be sending information on target backlog reduction goals as well as parameters for implementation and clerk involvement in this program after the May 20, 2010 Trial Court Budget Commission meeting.

The amount of funding authority appropriated for this program is less than the amount originally requested, thus the estimated allotment for each circuit also has been adjusted. You will find the estimated allocation by circuit along with estimated backlog cases in the attached PDF file – Foreclosure and Economic Recovery Program. Considering your adjusted allocation, please indicate, using the attached ForeclosureandEconomicRecovery _ Distribution spreadsheet, how you would like the funds for your circuit distributed – by category and element. For every element (General Magistrates and/or Senior Judges, Case Managers, General Magistrate/Senior Judge Admin Support and Mediation Admin Support) specify the dollar amount and category in which the funds should be allocated - OPS, contracted services and/or expenses dollars. To allow for maximum flexibility, funds may be expended in one or all of the elements.

As a reminder, the funding methodology developed for this proposal is based on the number of backlogged cases (in the civil areas) in each circuit. A ratio of one General Magistrate, one Case Manager and two Administrative Support positions for every 15,000 backlogged cases was applied to estimate need. One Administrative Support position is dedicated to mediation for the coordination of civil cases covered under this program with the exclusion of residential homestead mortgage foreclosure cases handled through the managed mediation program. The annual salaries used to

calculate the allocation amounts were approximately: \$79,688 for General Magistrates, \$39,126 for Case Managers, and \$26,090 for Admin Support.

Additional information is also needed again from the circuits as to how economic recovery resources will be deployed circuit-wide. Court leadership would like to be able to share this information with the clerks so they can plan accordingly, since they were appropriated \$3.6 million to support our initiative. Please provide:

- -The amount of magistrate/senior judge FTE's that will be assigned in each county based on the expected workload from the backlogged cases. Note: Single county circuits can ignore this question.
- -If you have multiple **magistrate/senior judge FTE's** in the proposal, what is the maximum number of courtrooms that will be scheduled at any one time **in each county**?

As usual we are under a tight timeframe. Please respond by Wednesday, May 12th C.O.B.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks, Heather

Heather Thuotte-Pierson Office of the State Courts Administrator Court Statistics Consultant (850) 410-3376

Bridenback, Mike

From:

Bridenback, Mike

Sent:

Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:28 PM

To:

Melendi, Rick

Subject:

RE: Today's hearings & cancellations

thanks

Michael L. Bridenback

Court Administrator 800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 604 Tampa, FL 33602 p: 813.272.5894

p: 813.272.5894 f: 813.301.3800

www.fljud13.org



From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:15 PM

To: Bridenback, Mike

Subject: Fw: Today's hearings & cancellations

The number of cancellations prior to hearing are below. The only figures outstanding would be the number of cacellations at time of hearing. I have directed the case managers to send you those numbers.

From: Greno, Linda To: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Thu Oct 14 14:21:11 2010

Subject: RE: Today's hearings & cancellations

It includes all cancellations except those at the time of the actual hearing.

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 2:17 PM

To: Greno, Linda

Subject: Re: Today's hearings & cancellations

This figures are just cancellations on Jaws prior to the hearing, correct? Or does this figure include pre-hearing and at time of hearing cancellations?

From: Greno, Linda **To**: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Thu Oct 14 13:48:10 2010

Subject: Today's hearings & cancellations

In Section I: 112 hearings with 62 cancellations

In Section II: 133 hearings with 52 cancellations

Bridenback, Mike

From:

Bridenback, Mike

Sent:

Wednesday, October 20, 2010 10:22 AM

To: Subject: Melendi, Rick Foreclosure Issues

I talked with Judge Barton and he agrees we should talk to the senior judges about what we discussed Monday.

Michael L. Bridenback

Court Administrator 800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 604 Tampa, FL 33602 p: 813.272.5894 f: 813.301.3800



www.fljud13.org

Bridenback, Mike

From:

Charlotte Jerrett

Sent:

Thursday, April 22, 2010 9:06 AM

To:

Bridenback, Mike

Subject: RE: Foreclosure Project

No. It has been bumped to the conference chairs. Should know something late tonight or tomorrow.

From: Bridenback, Mike

Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2010 9:06 AM

To: Charlotte Jerrett

Subject: Foreclosure Project

Did the chairs make a final decision on how much funding for this project last night?

Michael L. Bridenback

Court Administrator 800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 604 Tampa, FL 33602 p: 813.272.5894 f: 813.301.3800

www.fljud13.org

From:

Drake, Patricia

Sent:

Thursday, June 24, 2010 9:14 AM

To: Cc: Noll, Sharon Melendi, Rick

Subject:

RE: Phones for Foreclosure Training

Ok. That sounds like a good idea.

Rick, do I get that schedule from Janice, or can you provide it? Thank you!

From: Noll, Sharon

Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 9:01 AM

To: Drake, Patricia **Cc:** Melendi, Rick

Subject: Phones for Foreclosure Training

Pat: One more thing, please make sure that we obtain a copy of the schedule for the senior judges that will be covering foreclosures. Until the secretaries are hired and fully trained on the phones, I need you to make sure that training is coordinated for the judges as they rotate in (every two weeks), so that the judge coming in is familiar with the phones before they start hearings. Perhaps – if you already haven't – can make up an instruction sheet to leave with them along with the Help Desk number printed on it in case they have a problem. THANKS!

From: Noll. Sharon

Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 9:01 AM

To: Drake, Patricia
Cc: Melendi, Rick

Subject: Phones for Foreclosure Training

Pat: One more thing, please make sure that we obtain a copy of the schedule for the senior judges that will be covering foreclosures. Until the secretaries are hired and fully trained on the phones, I need you to make sure that training is coordinated for the judges as they rotate in (every two weeks), so that the judge coming in is familiar with the phones before they start hearings. Perhaps – if you already haven't – can make up an instruction sheet to leave with them along with the Help Desk number printed on it in case they have a problem. THANKS!

From:

Roberts, Julie [iroberts@PRESIDIO.com]

Sent:

Tuesday, June 22, 2010 7:39 PM

To:

Melendi, Rick; Michelle Kingry; Mike Lawless

Subject:

Re: Rd. 2 Deployment JAWS Notification Page re: Mortgage Foreclosures

Sweet - we are good!

Julie Roberts | Network Architect | MidAtlantic Presidio Networked Solutions | <u>iroberts@PRESIDIO.com</u> D: 863.815.1616 | C: 863.398.4959 | <u>www.presidio.com</u> CCNP, PMP # 55412



From: Melendi, Rick < MELENDRT@fljud13.org > **To**: Roberts, Julie; Kingry, Michelle; Lawless, Mike

Sent: Tue Jun 22 19:37:48 2010

Subject: Rd. 2 Deployment JAWS Notification Page re: Mortgage Foreclosures

Round 2 deployment test successful. A single address for Section I and Section II is all that appears on the site.

From:

Drake, Patricia

Sent:

Thursday, June 17, 2010 6:15 PM

To:

Stafford, Becki; Lemmons, Michael; Gant, Kimberly; Snell, Janell

Cc:

Noll, Sharon; Melendi, Rick; Roberts Julie

Subject:

JAWS / Foreclosures

Effective 7/1 there will be two divisions created to handle nothing but **residential** foreclosures (labeled Foreclosures Section 1 and Foreclosures Section 2). Per Rick, if the Help Desk receives calls from attorneys who cannot see any available foreclosure dates in JAWS, please ask them if this is for residential or commercial. If they say residential, advise them to check back in JAWS later next week. If they say commercial, refer them back to the JA. For the transition, the JA's may have removed their future dates from public view at this time.

The two new divisions will have JAWS calendars, but those calendar will not have available court times until next week.

Thanks!

From:

Roberts, Julie [jroberts@PRESIDIO.com]

Sent:

Friday, June 11, 2010 12:10 PM Melendi, Rick; Noll, Sharon

To: Subject:

Timeframe for developers for Mortgage Foreclosure development

Rick and Sharon -

The developers will need 5 days to perform the tasks required for the requested changes for Civil regarding Mortgage Foreclosures. For example if the Judges come back with a cutover date of June 25 Michelle would need to start on June 18. This helps set expectations.

Thanks Julie

Julie Roberts | Network Architect | MidAtlantic Presidio Networked Solutions | <u>iroberts@PRESIDIO.com</u> D: 863.815.1616 | C: 863.398.4959 | <u>www.presidio.com</u> CCNP, PMP # 55412



From:

Barton, James

Sent:

Thursday, June 10, 2010 9:02 AM

To:

CIRCCIVJUD

Cc:

CIRCCIVJA; Bridenback, Mike; Melendi, Rick; Snavely Carla

Subject:

foreclosures

We are in the final stages of designing the new residential foreclosure litigation plan, effective July 1. Here's an update:

- 1. Several applications have been received for the new case manager and JA positions. J. Arnold and I will be part of the hiring review process. Let me know if you want to participate.
- 2.The physical location of the two teams has been fixed: one team will be on the 5th floor with the judge and JA between J. Arnold and me and the case managers across the hall in the back section of the 5th floor library; the second team will be located on the 4th floor.
- 3. The clerk has agreed to immediately begin the hiring process for the new clerk positions. The clerk will also schedule two sales every day: one in the morning and one in the afternoon.
- 4.Our staff and the clerk's office have been working long and hard to make this procedure work. If you have specific questions or suggestions about any aspect of the plan, please let me know.
- 5. There's a meeting at 2:00 pm today (Thursday) in my office with the clerk's office. Feel free to join us.

From:

Schatzberg, Beth

Sent:

Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:36 PM

To:

Melendi, Rick; Bridenback, Mike; Noll, Sharon

Cc:

Greno, Linda; Gammage, Trillany

Subject:

Foreclosure Hearing - Cancellations - Thursday

Section 2 docket status

134 hearings scheduled

-52 cancelled prior to today

- 6 cancelled today during the hearings

76 hearings heard today TOTAL (Trillany is still in the court room on the 3:30 docket & may have a couple of cancellation due to no packet received)

----Original Message----

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 2:28 PM

To: Moreno, Elisa; Hickmon, Angelina; Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany

Cc: Greno, Linda

Subject: Re: Foreclosure Hearing - Cancellations Today

Please also send the informatio below to Sharon Noll just in case my phone dies.

Thanks.

---- Original Message -----

From: Melendi, Rick

To: Moreno, Elisa; Hickmon, Angelina; Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany

Cc: Greno, Linda

Sent: Thu Oct 14 11:40:06 2010

Subject: Foreclosure Hearing - Cancellations Today

Good Morning,

Please provide Mike Bridenback and myself via email the information requested below in 1) and 2) immediately following the conclusion of all hearings for today or at the latest 3:45 for both Section I and II.

- 1) The total number of hearings scheduled for today a.m. /Pam. through JAWS; and,
- 2) The total number of hearings -cancelled prior to today's hearings including, those hearings cancelled at the time of the hearing.

From:

Hickmon, Angelina

Sent:

Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:33 PM

To:

Melendi, Rick; Bridenback, Mike; Noll, Sharon

Cc:

Greno, Linda

Subject:

RE: Foreclosure Hearing - Cancellations Today

Good afternoon,

Here is the requested information:

- 1) 38 a.m. hearings and 12 p.m. hearings and
- 2) 61 total cancellations from today's docket

----Original Message----

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 11:40 AM

To: Moreno, Elisa; Hickmon, Angelina; Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany

Cc: Greno, Linda

Subject: Foreclosure Hearing - Cancellations Today

Good Morning,

Please provide Mike Bridenback and myself via email the information requested below in 1) and 2) immediately following the conclusion of all hearings for today or at the latest 3:45 for both Section I and II.

- 1) The total number of hearings scheduled for today a.m. /Pam. through JAWS; and,
- 2) The total number of hearings -cancelled prior to today's hearings including, those hearings cancelled at the time of the hearing.

From:

Greno, Linda

Sent:

Thursday, October 14, 2010 2:21 PM

To:

Melendi, Rick

Subject:

RE: Today's hearings & cancellations

It includes all cancellations except those at the time of the actual hearing.

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 2:17 PM

To: Greno, Linda

Subject: Re: Today's hearings & cancellations

This figures are just cancellations on Jaws prior to the hearing, correct? Or does this figure include pre-hearing and at time of hearing cancellations?

From: Greno, Linda **To:** Melendi, Rick

Sent: Thu Oct 14 13:48:10 2010

Subject: Today's hearings & cancellations

In Section I: 112 hearings with 62 cancellations

In Section II: 133 hearings with 52 cancellations

From:

Greno, Linda

Sent:

Thursday, October 14, 2010 1:48 PM

To:

Melendi, Rick

Subject:

Today's hearings & cancellations

In Section I: 112 hearings with 62 cancellations

In Section II: 133 hearings with 52 cancellations

From:

Greno, Linda

Sent:

Tuesday, October 12, 2010 9:53 AM

To:

Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany; Sequeira, Maria; Hickmon, Angelina; Moreno, Elisa;

Valdes,Ryan

Cc:

Melendi, Rick

Subject:

Defendant's Motions for Summary Judgment

Just a reminder that Motions for Summary Judgment filed by **Defendant's** are to be scheduled on the Friday motion day and all **Plaintiff's** Motions for Summary Judgment are set on the Monday – Thursday docket. Any questions, please let me know.

From: Bridenback, Mike

Sent: Wednesday, September 01, 2010 4:14 PM

To: Melendi, Rick

Subject: Fwd: Order Setting CMC - RF

Attachments: ORDER SETTING CMC - RF.docx; ATT98861.htm

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Greno, Linda" < GRENOLF@fljud13.org>

Date: September 1, 2010 4:13:46 PM EDT

To: "Barton, James " < BARTONJM@fljud13.org >

Cc: "Menendez, Manuel" < MENENDM@fljud13.org >, "Rowland, Dave"

< ROWLANDA@fljud13.org>, "Bridenback, Mike" < BRIDENML@fljud13.org>

Subject: Order Setting CMC - RF



Attached is the draft Order Setting Trial and other matters which you prepared after our noon meeting today. The people copied with this e-mail can make suggested changes.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

ORDER SETTING TRIAL, SCHEDULING CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, AND ALL PENDING MOTIONS
BE ADVISED that, pursuant to Rule 1.200, Fla. R. Civ. Proc., this cause will be called
p for Case Management Conference on, at,
00 E. Twiggs Street, Room, Tampa, Florida, before the Honorable
. Matters to be heard (including but not limited to):
1. All pending motions
2. Pretrial conference matters
3. The possibilities of settlement
All counsel shall be present before the Court at this hearing. ON FAILURE OF THE
ARTIES OR COUNSEL TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, THE COURT MAY DISMISS
THE ACTION, STRIKE THE PLEADINGS, LIMIT PROOF OF WITNESSES OR TAKE ANY
OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION. FAILURE OF PLAINTIFF TO APPEAR, PRO SE OR
THROUGH COUNSEL, SHALL RESULT IN DISMISSAL OF THIS ACTION.
ORDER SETTING TRIAL
THIS CAUSE is hereby set for non-jury trial on December,, 2010 at
DONE AND ORDERED this day of, 2010.
HON.

copies to:

Gammage, Trillany

From:

Melendi, Rick

Sent:

Thursday, October 14, 2010 2:28 PM

To:

Moreno, Elisa; Hickmon, Angelina; Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany

Cc:

Greno, Linda

Subject:

Re: Foreclosure Hearing - Cancellations Today

Please also send the informatio below to Sharon Noll just in case my phone dies.

Thanks.

---- Original Message ----- From: Melendi, Rick

From: Melendi, Rick

To: Moreno, Elisa; Hickmon, Angelina; Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany

Cc: Greno, Linda

Sent: Thu Oct 14 11:40:06 2010

Subject: Foreclosure Hearing - Cancellations Today

Good Morning,

Please provide Mike Bridenback and myself via email the information requested below in 1) and 2) immediately following the conclusion of all hearings for today or at the latest 3:45 for both Section I and II.

- 1) The total number of hearings scheduled for today a.m. /Pam. through JAWS; and,
- 2) The total number of hearings -cancelled prior to today's hearings including, those hearings cancelled at the time of the hearing.

Moreno, Elisa

From:

Melendi, Rick

Sent:

Monday, October 11, 2010 1:34 PM

To:

Moreno, Elisa

Subject:

RE: Cancelled Hearings

Thank you. And, please update me later on the p.m. cancellations at time of hearing.

From: Moreno, Elisa

Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 1:29 PM

To: Melendi, Rick

Subject: RE: Cancelled Hearings

Yes, 2 for am and I can update you on PM cancellations at time of hearing...

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 1:28 PM

To: Moreno, Elisa

Subject: RE: Cancelled Hearings

Does the a.m. & p.m. number include those cancellations which may occur at the time of the telephonic hearing?

From: Moreno, Elisa

Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 1:25 PM

To: Melendi, Rick

Subject: RE: Cancelled Hearings

Rick,

24 total cancelled for today

Breakdown:

15 AM cancellations (two cancellations at the time of hearing)

9 PM cancellations

Thanks!

Elisa

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 1:18 PM

To: Moreno, Elisa

Subject: RE: Cancelled Hearings

All cancelled a.m. & p.m. hearings for "today" - which will include cancellations prior to the hearing and those cancellations that occur at the time of the hearing.

Sorry for not being clear.

From: Moreno, Elisa

Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 1:14 PM

To: Melendi, Rick **Cc:** Hickmon, Angelina

Subject: RE: Cancelled Hearings

Rick,

Do you need the cancelled hearings "at the table" or a list of all that were cancelled prior to today?

Thanks,

Elisa

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 12:22 PM

To: Moreno, Elisa; Hickmon, Angelina; Schatzberg, Beth; Gammage, Trillany

Subject: Cancelled Hearings

Please provide me the total number of hearings cancelled this morning asap. Also, I will need the total number of hearings canceled by 3:30; 3:45 at the latest.

Wells, Tracy

From:

Wells, Tracy

Sent:

Wednesday, September 22, 2010 8:35 AM

To: Subject: Melendi, Rick RE: Sylvia Landis

Coming at you.

T.

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 5:22 PM

To: Wells, Tracy

Subject: FW: Sylvia Landis

Let me start by apologizing, I requested the wrong dockets from Section I & II. Ms. Landis request is for 8/16/10 dockets from Section I & II, not 8/26/10. Please make copies of the a.m. & p.m. from Sections I & II on 8/16/10.

Sorry!!!

From: Melendi, Rick

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 5:33 PM

To: Wells, Tracy **Subject:** Sylvia Landis

Tracy,

With everything that went on Friday, you forgot to bring me a copy of 8/26/10 dockets for Section I & II. When you have a minute, please drop them by my office so I can address Ms. Landis'- 1st public records request.

Bridenback, Mike

From:

Bridenback, Mike

Sent:

Tuesday, June 29, 2010 11:13 AM

To:

Menendez, Manuel

Cc:

Cash, Kim

Subject:

RE: Mortgage Foreclosure Backlog Project Staff

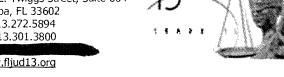
Great, I will have Tracy get with Kim.

Michael L. Bridenback

Court Administrator 800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 604 Tampa, FL 33602 p: 813.272.5894

f: 813.301.3800

www.fljud13.org



From: Menendez, Manuel

Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 11:10 AM

To: Bridenback, Mike

Cc: Cash, Kim

Subject: FW: Mortgage Foreclosure Backlog Project Staff

Kim would like to help Tracy out with the secretary job. Perhaps they could alternate days, etc.? Please get with her and let her know what's needed.

From: Bridenback, Mike

Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 10:51 AM

To: CIRCCIVJUD

Cc: CIRCCIVJA; Menendez, Manuel; Melendi, Rick; Wells, Tracy

Subject: Mortgage Foreclosure Backlog Project Staff

The staff assigned to this project by location are:

5th Floor – Edgecomb

Lead Case Manager - Angelina Hickmon - Will begin work on July 1 Case Manager – Elisa Moreno – Will begin work on July 6 Senior Secretary – Tracy Wells will temporarily act as the secretary and will begin this assignment on July f 1

4th Floor – Edgecomb

Lead Case Manager – Beth Schatzberg – Will begin work on July 6 Case Manager - Trillany Gammage - Will begin work on July 6 Senior Secretary – Maria Sequeria – Will begin work on July 1

Rick Melendi act in an advisory role and Tracy Wells will oversee day to day operations.



Manuel Menendez, Jr. Chief Judge

November 19, 2010

PHONE: (813) 272-5022 FAX: (813) 272-7224

Chief Justice Canady Supreme Court of Florida 500 South Duval Street Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chief Justice Canady:

Thank you for providing a copy of the letter you recently received from the Florida Press Association and other organizations. In that correspondence it is alleged that members of the public or the press have either been prevented from attending foreclosure proceedings or have been told they were not allowed to attend such proceedings. As it relates to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit the letter states "...[a] court observer in Hillsborough County called the court to ask about the rules governing attendance at foreclosure proceedings and was told that the proceedings were not open to the public." I was, of course, quite concerned that such an allegation was being directed at this circuit. To the best of my knowledge, with the exception of proceedings that are deemed confidential by operation of law (such as proceedings for Termination of Parental Rights under F.S. 39.809(4), Adoptions under F.S. 63.162(1), and Judicial Waiver of Parental Notification of Abortion under F.S. 390.01114(4)(e), 390.01116, and Rule 8.820(e) of the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure, among others) all court proceedings in the Thirteenth Circuit are conducted to that they are open to the public. In any event, I have made further inquiry into the matter and have taken various certain actions to further assure that there is a clear understanding by all concerned that all non-confidential court proceedings are to be open to the public, and that they are in fact conducted accordingly.

As one can well imagine, it is rather difficult to investigate an allegation from an anonymous "court observer" that fails to provide any specifics as to when the call was allegedly made or who it was that allegedly provided the information. Nevertheless we have looked into the matter in an effort to determine whether there might be any validity to the allegation.

There are multiple entities that someone might call to obtain information about court proceedings. These include a judge's office, the court administrator's office and its various

departments, the clerk of court and its various departments, as well as the sheriff's court security and operations unit.

None of the judicial assistants and judges who routinely handle mortgage foreclosure cases recalled a call concerning rules governing attendance at foreclosure proceedings, nor did they e recall advising anyone that such proceedings were not open to the public. Moreover, each confirmed their understanding that foreclosure hearings are indeed open to the public and indicated that they would not have otherwise told anyone that such hearings are closed.

The office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court was likewise contacted during our inquiry. The chief deputy for court operations who oversees the departments that support the handling of mortgage foreclosure cases inquired of her staff to determine if any of them might have received such a call. No one recalled fielding such a call. She further confirmed that her staff acknowledged an understanding that foreclosure proceedings are in fact open to the public and that they would not have indicated otherwise to anyone making such an inquiry.

In addition, administrative staff members working with the mortgage foreclosure project were also interviewed. This included the chief of court operations, chief administrative assistant to the court administrator, the central receptionist who handles all calls coming into the court administrator's office, as well as the case managers and secretaries assigned to the foreclosure project. Again, no one recalls receiving a call regarding rules associated with attending foreclosure proceedings, and all confirmed their understanding that these proceedings are open to the public and that they would not state otherwise to anyone who might inquire either in person or on the telephone.

The bailiffs who support the foreclosure proceedings were also contacted. They likewise fully understand the policy of non-confidential proceedings being open to the public. The sheriff has a comprehensive education and training program that addresses proper protocols for officers to address issues such as this. They too do not recall fielding any inquiry as to whether foreclosure proceedings are public.

Prior to implementation of the foreclosure project the foreclosure cases were assigned to each of the 10 judges in our general civil division. The judges had no case management support or assistance in managing their cases. The hearings in those foreclosure cases, as with the hearings in most other civil cases, were held in hearing rooms adjacent to chambers. Because of space limitations, courtrooms are generally not available for motions hearings in each of the divisions handling general civil matters. The courtrooms are shared by the judges and are generally reserved for jury trials.

As a result of the funding provided for the foreclosure project, we now have the equivalent of 2 full time judges handling all foreclosure cases (from a pool of 6 senior judges) with the additional assistance of case management support. Due to space constraints, the foreclosure proceedings have been conducted on two separate floors of the courthouse. One of the

foreclosure divisions conducts the proceedings in a traditional courtroom setting on the 4th floor. Access to the courtroom is from a public lobby area. The other foreclosure division conducts the proceedings in a hearing room adjacent to judges' chambers in an area where entry is screened for security reasons. Unlike the courtroom setting, the hearing room is not set up to allow unfettered entry and exit from a public lobby area. Entry to the chambers area is monitored by bailiffs. Accordingly, access to the hearing room may in fact be a bit slower and more cumbersome than the entry to the courtroom. However, to my knowledge no one has been denied access to the foreclosure proceedings in either of the locations currently being utilized.

The senior judges hearing the foreclosure cases are very experienced judges. I have no doubt they are reviewing each case on its merits and rendering judgments based on the facts and the law. Prior to the hearings our case managers review every case calendared to determine whether all required documents are properly filed and ready for consideration by the court. Hundreds of cases have been pulled from the calendar due to insufficient documentation. The case managers attend the hearings and record all actions taken by the judge. The cases are set in 30 minute blocks of time with no more than 15 cases schedule per time block. We use an automated system where the attorneys schedule their cases on a web-based calendaring system. Before an attorney may calendar a foreclosure hearing through the court's automated calendaring system, the attorney is required to upload a copy of the motion or mortgage foreclosure packet which can then be accessed and review by a judge or case manager. Once this task is completed, the attorney receives a confirmation that the hearing is scheduled. Notice to all associated parties is provided through this automated calendaring system. Many of the hearings are conducted telephonically.

Summary Judgment hearings are held Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm. Cases are calendared on two dockets each handled simultaneously by a senior judge. On Fridays of each week, non-dispositive motion hearings are held between 9 am and 5 pm. Beginning in December, we will also be conducting case management conferences for those cases that have not yet been calendared by the parties for summary judgment hearing. The purpose of these hearings is to determine the status of the cases and determine if it would be appropriate to schedule trial dates.

A possible source of the allegation that foreclosure proceedings are not open to the public might be from an internet blog published by foreclosure defense attorney Matt Weidner (mattweidnerlaw.com). I am told that in a blog on September 24, 2010, Mr. Weidner states that "across this state, oftentimes in secret courtrooms that are hidden from the public using evidence and information that is hidden from the scrutiny of press or public view, judges will be signing thousands of foreclosure judgments. I was in one of those secret Kafka-esque courtrooms in Tampa yesterday..." I do not share Mr. Weidner's opinion concerning his characterization of how foreclosure proceedings are being conducted in Hillsborough County, and I believe a reasonable analysis of the process currently in place in the 13th Judicial Circuit would show Mr. Weidner's statements to be overstated and exaggerated. Also, another foreclosure defense

attorney, Randall Reder, was recently quoted in the Tampa Tribune that he has "repeatedly seen homeowners and attorneys turned away from hearings" by bailiffs. To my knowledge Mr. Reder never made these concerns know to the court or the sheriff's office.

I would also note that in September a reporter from the New York Times visited the courthouse and wished to observe the foreclosure proceedings. The reporter was apparently advised by someone in the clerk's office that the proceedings were in the hearing room area and that entry into that area was controlled by the bailiffs. The reporter sought out our court administrator to discuss the issue of access. It was explained that access was not prohibited but that security screening procedures were in place. The reporter was allowed access to the hearing room, observed the proceedings, and conducted an interview with one of the judges. The reporter subsequently wrote an article which appeared in the New York Times. See Andrew Martin & David Streitfeld, Flawed Foreclosure Documents Thwart Home Sales, N.Y. Times, Oct. 8, 2010. No mention is made in that article of anyone not being allowed to observe foreclosure proceedings. Likewise, a reporter from Bloomberg News visited our courthouse, observed foreclosure proceedings, interviewed a judge, and wrote an article. See David McLaughlin, Florida's 30-Second Foreclosure Dash Hits Wall of Fraud Claims, Bloomberg News, Oct. 13, 2010. The Bloomberg reporter had no apparent problems, and likewise made no mention of access issues.

We have now changed the location of the 5th floor foreclosure hearings and instituted a schedule to free up courtroom space so that all the foreclosure proceedings may be held in traditional courtroom setting, rather than in a hearing room. As you know, we are struggling to handle an extraordinary amount of work with limited resources, and with space constraints. We have put in place procedures which we feel are efficient and which allow for due process to all who have business before the court. We are of course always open to suggestions as to how to improve the system and would welcome an independent review of our process.

So as to remind everyone of the importance of providing public access to the public, a copy of this letter has been provided to our court administrator, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, supervisory personnel within the sheriff's office, our senior foreclosure judges, foreclosure case managers and support staff, as well as each of the judges in this circuit and their judicial assistances.

Please advise if there is any additional information you desire.

Very Truly Yours,

Manuel Menendez, Jr.

Chief Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Cc: Lisa Goodner, State Courts Administrator

Mike Bridenback, Trial Court Administrator

Pat Frank, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Col. James Previtera, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Department of Detention Services

Major James Livingston, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Court Operations

Foreclosure Project Senior Judges

Foreclosure Project Case Managers & Support Staff

All Circuit and County Judges

All Judicial Assistants

Bridenback, Mike

From:

Kristine Slayden

Sent:

Monday, June 28, 2010 11:50 AM

To:

Bridenback, Mike

Cc:

Arlene Johnson; P.J. Stockdale

Subject:

FW: Foreclosure & Econ Funding Meeting

Mike – Are you available to chair the issue directed by TCBC to have the CSWC approve the reporting requirement for the foreclosure initiative? The tentative schedule to implement the reporting requirement is July 16th, so we would need to get committee approval some time before then. We assumed it would have to be handled by the committee via email discussion/approval? Once we get the format set, would you mind sending it out to the committee members as temporary chair? Thanks. Kris

Kris Slayden
Research and Data
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Florida Supreme Court
500 S. Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850-922-5106 (wk)
850-556-2335 (cell)
850-414-1342 (fax)

From: Grubbs, Linda

Sent: Monday, June 28, 2010 11:41 AM

To: Kristine Slayden

Subject: Foreclosure & Econ Funding Meeting

Hi Kris,

Judge Master's wanted me to express to everyone how sorry she was about this meeting. She totally agrees that Mike should sit in for her if possible.

Thanks, Linda

Linda Grubbs

Judicial Assistant for

Ellen S. Masters, Circuit Judge

P.O. Box 9000 Drawer J145

Bartow, Fl 33831

863-534-4669