

Supreme Court of Florida

PROCLAMATION IN RE *Drug Court Month*

WHEREAS, drug courts provide the focus and leadership for communitywide, anti-drug systems, bringing together criminal justice, treatment, and other community partners in the fight against drug abuse and criminality; and

WHEREAS, drug courts combine intensive judicial supervision, mandatory substance abuse treatment, and drug-testing with escalating sanctions and incentives in order to break the cycle of drug addiction and concomitant crime, and turn defendants into productive, law-abiding members of our society; and

WHEREAS, drug courts not only reclaim lives lost to drug addiction and criminality but save the State of Florida substantial taxpayer dollars by reducing the number of incarcerated defendants; and

WHEREAS, the judges, case managers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment and rehabilitation professionals, law enforcement and corrections personnel, researchers and educators, national and community leaders, and others who are dedicated to the drug-court movement have had a profound impact through hard work and commitment to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the first drug court was established in Miami, Florida, in 1989 and has served as a model for 94 drug courts currently operational in Florida and close to 3,000 drug courts currently in operation throughout the nation and world; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Jorge Labarga, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all who are observing National Drug Court Month, May 2016, which recognizes practitioners and participants who make drug courts work, as well as the significant contributions drug courts have made and continue to make in reducing drug usage and crime in Florida and throughout the nation.

DONE IN CHAMBERS on this 2nd Day of May, 2016.



Chief Justice Jorge Labarga

ATTEST:



John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

