

17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF
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**Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Honors Judge Ari Abraham Porth with Top
Statewide Judicial Award for Excellence**

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. – Chief Justice Carlos Muñiz of the Florida Supreme Court has named Broward Circuit Court Judge Ari Abraham Porth the recipient of the 2024 Chief Justice Award for Judicial Excellence in recognition of his “personification of judicial excellence” and “exceptional commitment to the judicial branch.” The coveted annual award is presented to two judges statewide in Florida – one from circuit court and one from county court.

Judge Porth, of Parkland, is currently assigned to the 17th Judicial Circuit Felony Mental Health division, where his accomplishments have been instrumental in promoting rehabilitation and recovery for those with mental illness. Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Carlos G. Muñiz made the announcement last week.

“I am grateful and overwhelmed,” said Judge Porth, who was sworn into the 17th Judicial Circuit in January 2013. “I share this Judicial Award of Excellence with the many people in the 17th Circuit that continue to support our Felony Mental Health Court. We work collaboratively to find resources for those in need while keeping the community’s safety always in mind. It is the greatest honor to be able to help people on their road to recovery.”

Established in 2015, the award pays tribute to trial court judges whose achievements exceed the normal expectations of the office and considers factors such as strength of character, integrity, knowledge of the law, sound judgment, professional ethics, intellectual courage, compassion, and decisiveness.

“Judge Porth is a natural born leader who exemplifies humility and wisdom in everything he does,” noted Jack Tuter, Chief Judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit. “He not only represents the 17th Judicial Circuit as a circuit court judge, but also represents the people of Broward County and the citizens of the State of Florida as an impactful dignitary who remains grounded, regardless of his title.”

Judge Porth has a lengthy track record of effecting change. Before he was a judge, he served as a State Representative from 2004 to 2012, sponsoring and passing legislation that protected victims of domestic violence by allowing employee leaves of absence, limiting liability to

restaurants that donate food to shelters and raising penalties for those who commit crimes upon the homeless.

He currently chairs the 17th Judicial Circuit's Mental Health Task Force, sits on the executive board of the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges and is on the board of directors for the Area Agency on Aging.

Previous recognitions include the TJ Reddick Bar Association, the Broward County Bar Association, the Broward County PTA, the Florida School Social Worker Association, the Broward Firefighters, the Broward Partnership for the Homeless, the Smith Community Mental Health Foundation, the Florida Wellness Network and the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency.

The Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court presents the awards at the Annual Education Programs of the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges and the Conference of County Court Judges.

Judge Porth is a graduate of Northeastern University in Boston.

ABOUT THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida is the court for Broward County, headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, FL. It is the second largest circuit court in the state. Broward County has 90 judges. Of those, 32 are county court judges and 58 are circuit judges. Four courthouses comprise the 17th circuit and include the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, and three satellite courthouses: the North Regional Courthouse in Deerfield Beach, the West Regional Courthouse in Plantation and the South Regional Courthouse in Hollywood.

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