

JACK TUTER
CHIEF JUDGE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF
FLORIDA



BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Judges and Staff,

The events of the past week serve as a reminder to all of us, judges and staff, that we must commit ourselves to serving the public in a respectful and thoughtful manner. While I recognize what happened this past week is not a true reflection of the hard work we do every day in administering justice, we must all strive to continually improve.

The public's confidence in its system of justice can only be sustained if we are respectful, thoughtful, and vigilant in every aspect of our job. Whether it is a judge, judicial assistant, supervisor or staff member, we all need to continuously recognize one bad day, one mistreatment of any citizen, unnecessary and misguided comments, or one indignity perpetrated on a person in the courtroom or a visitor is one too many. I need not remind you that everything we do in the courthouse is subject to scrutiny -- and rightfully so.

Unfortunately, it only takes one incident to bring the entire Circuit under a cloud. As chief judge it is my responsibility to ensure that everyone adheres to the highest standards of ethical conduct. Make no mistake, I will take whatever action is necessary and within my power to ensure a zero tolerance for bad behavior or ethical lapses.

We must now work harder at sustaining the public trust. Therefore, I am calling on everyone, and particularly my colleagues, to recommit themselves to our core mission - the administration of justice free from bias, and in an even-handed and dignified manner. Lastly, I want to thank each one of you for your hard work and dedication to public service and the administration of justice.

JT