IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND
FOR BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. I-06-A-3

IN RE:

JUDICIAL ANNUAL LEAVE
_____/

This administrative order is entered in accordance with the chief judge's duties and responsibilities as set forth in Article V, section 2, Florida Constitution; Rule 2.050, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration; and Section 26.37, Florida Statutes.

Judicial Office is a public office rather than an employment; therefore, establishment of a judicial annual leave policy cannot be required and is entirely voluntary on the part of the State Courts System.

Judicial annual leave assures that judges have sufficient time away from the bench to maintain good health and effectiveness and to permit time for rejuvenation and renewal. Establishment of this judicial annual leave policy ensures that judges are accountable for the time they are away from the bench while simultaneously emphasizing that some leave time is in the best interests of a properly functioning judiciary.

This policy addresses judicial annual leave only. The policy does not encompass sick leave, educational leave, military leave, leave to serve on court committees, or other leave in the furtherance of justice. All judges are expected to participate - as both faculty and students - in approved continuing judicial education programs. Judges are also encouraged, as part of their regular judicial responsibilities, to participate in professional meetings and conferences that advance the administration of justice or the public's understanding of the judicial system; to serve on commissions and committees of state and national organizations that contribute to the improvement of the law or the administration of justice; and to serve on Supreme Court-appointed or in-house assignments or committees.

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Circuit court and county court judges are expected to take annual leave of no more than 30 working days. Judicial participation in judicial education programs and other professional responsibilities does not affect a judge's annual leave.

2. Before any judicial annual leave is taken, each judge must notify the chief judge of his or her intention to take judicial annual leave and must state the amount of judicial annual leave to be taken.

3. The chief judge or the chief judge's designee shall maintain records of those notifications.

4. Unused judicial annual leave does not accrue from year to year. No judge shall be entitled to be paid for those hours of judicial annual leave not taken within a calendar year. However, nothing herein prevents a chief judge from allowing judicial annual leave on an individual basis in excess of the guidelines established here, upon the showing of good cause.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida this 2nd day of February, 2006.

/s/DALE ROSS
DALE ROSS, Chief Judge