

A MESSAGE FROM THE JMC EDUCATION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIR

In 2014, I had the opportunity to chair the Judicial Management Council's Education and Outreach Committee to develop a statewide communication plan for the judicial branch of Florida. I had no idea how fruitful this effort would become, but now, seven years later, I am truly inspired by the significant and measurable progress our courts have made.

At the time, my fellow committee members included Judge Olin Shinholser, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Judge Benjamin Garagozlo, Brevard County; and several staff members from the Office of the State Courts Administrator. The extraordinary effort by the committee, the Judicial Management Council, and then Chief Justice Jorge Labarga to shepherd the revolutionary plan from development to implementation shows the importance of court communications in Florida.

The plan began with a simple vision: *Deliver Our Message*. Committee members understood the importance of speaking with one voice, promoting the good works of judges and courts, and using new tools and technology to deliver our message. The success stories you read in the following pages result from a coordinated, statewide effort to develop a "Culture of Communication" in Florida.

Today, court communications is emerging as both a specialty and a necessity in the overall system of court management in the U.S. and elsewhere. Florida's Communication Plan has become a national and international model for others to follow. I think we can confidently say that Florida is leading the way thanks to our efforts to implement and sustain the goals outlined in the Plan.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone in our court system -- from chief judges to Florida's court public information officers to court technology officers and other court staff -- who supported communication efforts over the years. Additionally, I very much appreciate the Supreme Court Public Information Office and the Florida Court Public Information Officers for the tremendous work that has gone into implementing and promoting the Communication Plan.



FCPIO Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson.