

**The Bruce R. Jacob Criminal Appellate
American Inn of Court**

New Member Orientation

2012-2013

The Bruce R. Jacob Criminal Appellate American Inn of Court

The Bruce R. Jacob Criminal Appellate Inn promotes professionalism and civility among the lawyers who practice criminal appellate law in Florida's Second District Court of Appeal. This unique inn has student members from the Stetson University College of Law as well as the University of Tampa. Its masters and barristers are assistant public defenders, assistant attorneys general, staff attorneys and judges of the Second District, as well as professors from Stetson.



The Inn is named for Bruce R. Jacob, who as a young assistant attorney general, argued Gideon v. Wainwright in the U.S. Supreme Court in 1963. He went on to become a prominent professor of law and dean of the Stetson Law School. He remains an active member of the inn and continues to lead a pupillage group.

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General Information

I. Dinner Programs and Pupilage Group Responsibilities

The list of members and pupilage groups is attached to this packet. Each pupilage will be responsible for presenting a program, and each pupilage also has a pupilage leader. Your pupilage leader will coordinate the program and give general direction. If you or your pupilage leader have any questions about the intended program topic, please contact either of the co-program chairs (Alisa Smith or Cerese Taylor). Also, each pupilage will be responsible for providing any necessary information to Alisa or Cerese for CLE purposes.

II. Dates, Times, and Location

Each meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. and usually ends at approximately 8:00 p.m. With the exception of the meetings on 20 February and 17 April we will meet on the third floor of the Stetson Tampa Law Center. On 20 February and 17 April we will meet in the courtroom on the first floor.

III. RSVP's

A reminder will be sent to everyone prior to each meeting. Please RSVP.

IV. Attendance Policy

If you cannot attend, you may designate a fellow attorney (or fellow student) to attend in your place.

V. Dues

For the attorney members, dues are \$125.00. Please bring a check made out to the “Bruce R. Jacob Inn of Court” to the first meeting. For the Stetson law student members, the first \$100 in dues will be paid by Stetson. Therefore, unless hardship arrangements have been made, Stetson law student members should bring a check for \$25 made out to the “Bruce R. Jacob Inn of Court” to the first meeting.

VI. Outreach

There will be an outreach program in December. Gina Girardot will have more information in the very near future. The outreach program remains voluntary.

VII. Mentoring

Student members and younger attorneys are encouraged to ask questions/seek advice from senior members of the Inn. This Inn is meant to provide a comfortable and relaxed forum for mentoring and open discussion.

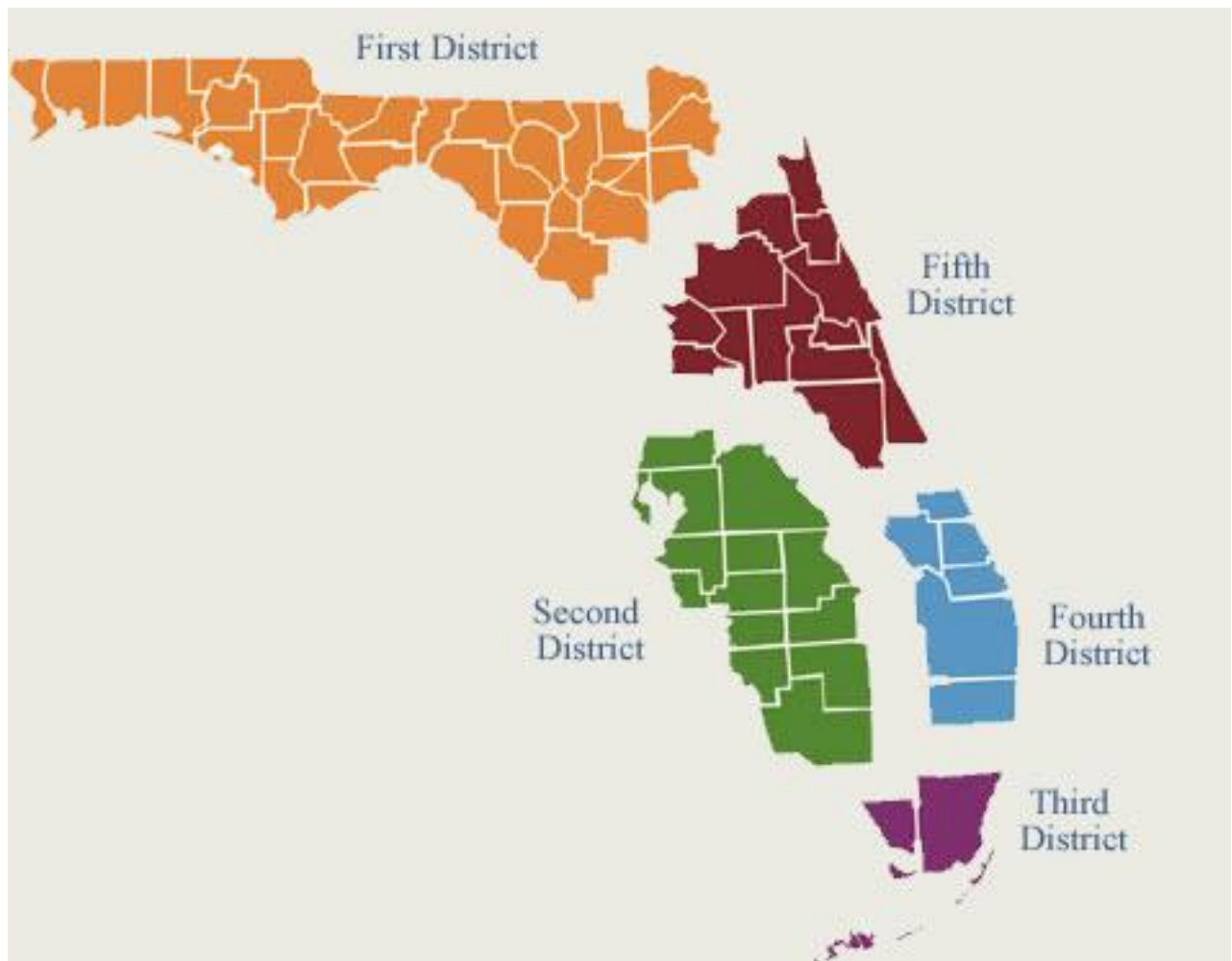
More specific information regarding mentoring will be forthcoming; for instance, if any students are interested, there may be certain days on which students may visit the Court or the lawyers’ offices. Also, pupillage leaders are encouraged to assign mentors to each student; a one-on-one mentor/mentee relationship provides the students with a designated lawyer for any questions or advice.

Legal Background Information

(Intended primarily for the student members of our Inn.)

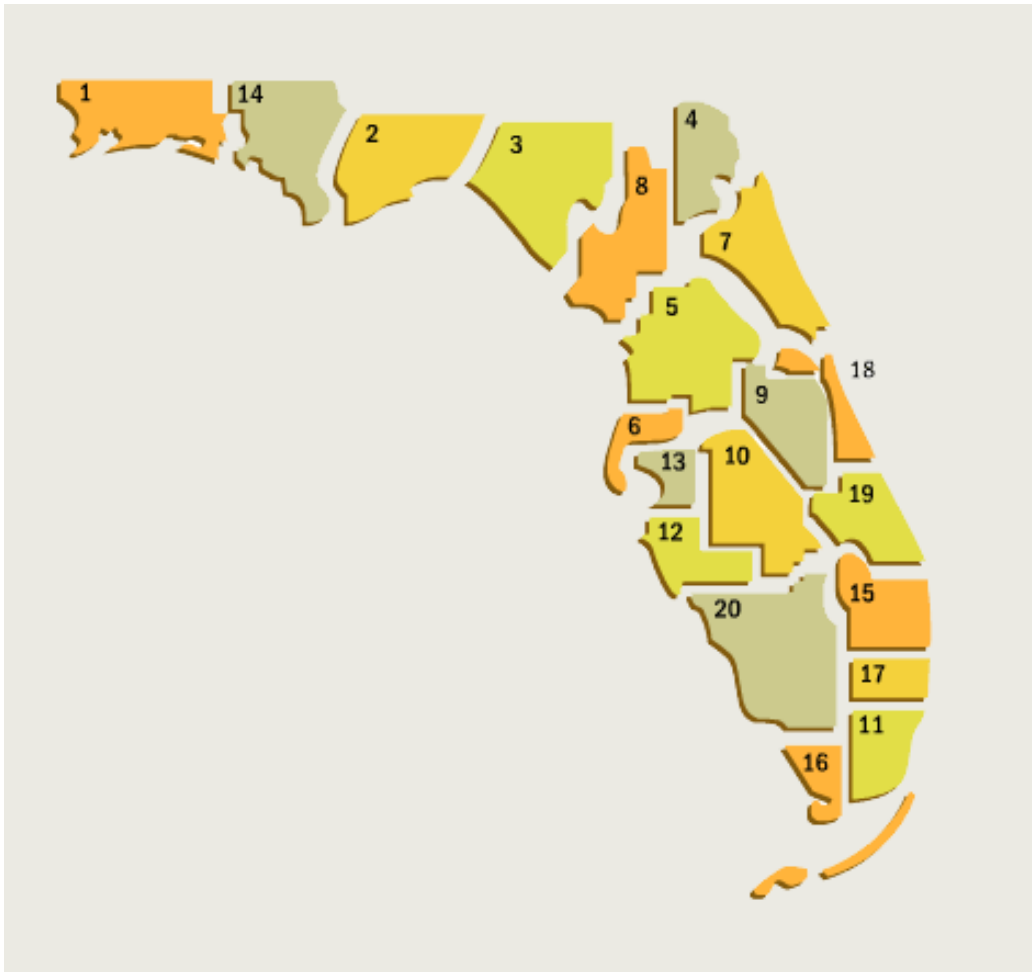
The masters and barristers of this Inn are primarily assistant public defenders from the Tenth Judicial Circuit, assistant attorneys general from the Tampa office of the Attorney General, and staff attorneys and judges of the Second District Court of Appeal.

Florida has five intermediate appellate courts:



The Public Defender for the Tenth Judicial Circuit

Only one Public Defender in each appellate district handles appeals from the circuit court to the district court of appeal. Generally, these appeals mainly include felony appeals and juvenile appeals. In the Second District, section 27.51 of the Florida Statutes provides that the Public Defender for the Tenth Judicial Circuit shall handle these appeals. There are twenty circuit courts in Florida:



Therefore, the Public Defender for the Tenth Circuit handles circuit court appeals from the sixth, thirteenth, twelfth, twentieth, and tenth circuits.

The Attorney General's Office

The Attorney General is the chief legal officer for the State of Florida and represents and defends the prosecution in all criminal appeals in state and federal courts. The Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Unit maintains six offices throughout the State and handles all appeals in the district courts. (An office is located near each of the district courts.) The Assistant Attorneys General in this Inn are from the Tampa office.

The Second District Court of Appeal

In 1956, the Florida Constitution was amended to provide for District Courts of Appeal to assume a major portion of the appellate jurisdiction of the state court system. Initially three districts for those courts were established. The initial territorial jurisdiction of the Second District, with its headquarters in Lakeland, encompassed twenty-eight counties, ranging from Lake County in the north, to Collier County and Broward County in the south. In 1965, the Fourth District was established, reducing the Second District's territory, which was further reduced by the establishment of the Fifth District in 1979. There are now fourteen counties in the Second District which includes a population of over 3.8 million: Pasco & Pinellas, Hardee, Highlands, Polk, DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota, Hillsborough, Charlotte, Glades, Collier, Hendry, and Lee.

When the District Court of a Appeal for the Second District first convened, its headquarters were in the old Florida Citrus Commission building at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Main Street in Lakeland. In 1980 a branch headquarters for the Second District was authorized and in that same year was established in Tampa where the court maintains an additional courtroom and where eight of the court's judges now

have their chambers. The chambers of six judges, the clerk's office, the marshal's office, and the court records are located in the court's Lakeland headquarters. The court hears oral arguments in both its Lakeland and Tampa courtrooms. Periodically, the court also hears oral arguments in county courthouses in various counties within the district.

Originally there were three judges in the Second District. Those three constituted the panel of judges which heard and decided the cases before the court. In 1958, the first full year of the court's operation, those cases numbered 210. As the caseload of the court increased over the years, the number of judges on the court also increased. However, the increase in the caseload per judge exceeds the increase in the number of judges. There are now 14 judges on the court.