



District Court of Appeal of Florida Second District

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Darryl C. Casanueva Named Chief Judge-Elect

LAKELAND, Fla.—Judge Darryl C. Casanueva of Port Charlotte has been unanimously named chief judge-elect of the Florida Second District Court of Appeal by his colleagues. The court is headquartered in Lakeland; Judge Casanueva's chambers are in the Tampa branch.

"I am honored and humbled to be selected by my fellow judges as the next chief judge of the court. Many challenges exist during these difficult economic times as we seek to fulfill our constitutional duties as a co-equal branch of our state's government. Despite the many obstacles, the judges and staff of the court have labored to maintain a high level of service to the people of this district. As chief judge, I hope to maintain the superior standard of service Judge Northcutt has provided to this court over the last two years." – Judge Darryl C. Casanueva.

Judge Casanueva will become the district's 28th chief judge since the court became operational on July 1, 1957. His two-year term will begin July 1. As chief judge, he will be responsible for all administrative matters in the court.

"Judge Casanueva is a thoughtful person and very capable colleague. I know he will be an outstanding chief," Chief Judge Stevan T. Northcutt noted.

Judge Casanueva is a Tampa native and attended the University of South Florida where he received his B.A. in Political Science. He received his Juris Doctor degree in 1976 from Loyola University School of Law (New Orleans, Louisiana). While a member of this court, he obtained a Master of Laws in the Judicial Process in 2001 from the University of Virginia.

After law school, he served as an assistant state attorney in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, initially based in Fort Myers and later in Punta Gorda. Then, he entered private practice and later became a partner in the Charlotte County law firm of Olmsted, Schwarz, Kahle and Casanueva.

In 1990 he was elected to the Circuit Court of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit (Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Glades, and Hendry Counties), succeeding the late Honorable Elmer O. Friday. He served as a circuit judge, primarily in Punta Gorda, until appointed to this court in 1998.

Judge Casanueva has been active in a wide variety of law and civil activities, including serving as president of the Charlotte County Bar Association and the Port Charlotte Rotary Club. Presently, he serves on the faculty of the Florida Judicial College for new trial and appellate judges and on the Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases.

His web biography is at:

<http://www.2dca.org/Judges/Bio/casanueva.shtml>.

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