

JUDGE CATHLEEN B. CLARKE

Eighteenth Judicial Circuit
Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Justice Center
2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940
(321) 617-7266



The Honorable Cathleen B. Clarke was first appointed to the county court bench in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit by Governor Lawton Chiles in 1998. In 2001, Judge Clarke was elected by her peers to serve as the county court administrative judge.

A native Floridian, Judge Clarke was raised in the Tampa Bay area and graduated from Notre Dame Academy, known today as St. Petersburg Catholic High School. Judge Clarke attended the University of Florida, where her mother, the late Johnnie Ruth Clarke, had previously distinguished herself as the first African American woman to earn a doctorate degree from a Florida public university. Her father, the late St. Petersburg dentist Dr. J.L. Clarke, was also a trailblazing African American and the source of great pride and inspiration.

Judge Clarke received her bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in 1975, and subsequently received her Juris Doctor from the University of Florida School of Law in 1979. Following law school, Judge Clarke served as an assistant state attorney, assistant public defender, part-time Guardian ad litem attorney, and part-time instructor at Brevard Community College's Law Enforcement Academy.

In 2003, the National Association for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) presented Judge Clarke the Outstanding Leadership and Advocacy Award for her work establishing the first mental health court in Brevard County.

Judge Clarke has served on numerous boards and committees including The Haven, American Red Cross, Commission on Mental Health and Community Solutions, Crosswinds, Inc., and the Brevard County Bar Judicial Liaison Committee. She currently serves on the Florida Bar Association's Judicial Nominating Procedures committee.

Since 1998, Judge Clarke has run unopposed to retain her judicial position.