



Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

Michelle Kennedy

Communications Director

2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way ♦ Viera, Florida 32940
Email: michelle.kennedy@clerk.co.brevard.fl.us

♦Tel: (321) 637-5355
♦Fax: (321) 633-2172

For Immediate Release
June 28, 2009

Contact: Michelle Kennedy 321-637-5355

JUDGE SILVERNAIL ELECTED TO EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT'S TOP LEADERSHIP POSITION

For the second time in his judicial career, **Circuit Judge J. Preston Silvernail** was elected to serve as Chief Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit. He will succeed current **Chief Judge Clayton D. Simmons** and begin his two-year term on July 1, 2009. Chief Judges are constitutionally responsible for the supervision of the courts and court staff within their circuit. In his new position, Judge Silvernail will oversee 42 judges in Brevard and Seminole Counties and a budget estimated at \$15 million.

Judge Silvernail takes the reins of the judicial system in one of the worst budget crises in the court's history. Dealing with the relentless challenge of increasing caseloads and decreasing revenue will be the focus of his second term as chief judge.

"The economic downturn has left us with unprecedented fiscal challenges," said Judge Silvernail. "Our goal is to adjudicate cases fairly, impartially, and in a timely manner, despite recent budget cuts. We realize that delays in court cases cost Florida residents and businesses time and money and we remain steadfast in our commitment to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our judiciary."

Chief Judge Silvernail earned both his Bachelor's and MBA degrees from the University of Florida and received his law degree from St. Mary's University in 1977. Governor Lawton Chiles appointed Silvernail to the Brevard County court bench in 1992 and the circuit bench in 1995. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he served for 15 years as a civil litigator.

###