



# Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

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## **NOVA LAW SCHOOL ALUMNUS CLAYTON D. SIMMONS TAPPED FOR STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP POSITION**

Chief Justice Peggy A. Quince recently named Clayton D. Simmons (J.D. '80), Chief Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, to the statewide Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC). As chief judge, Simmons has expertise in addressing the fiscal challenges brought on by severe budget reductions to our state court system.

The TCBC is the oversight body on statewide court funding and is responsible for allocating the approximate \$200 million dollars appropriated by the Legislature among the State's trial courts. As a member of the TCBC, Judge Simmons will also study innovative approaches to funding the courts and make decisions on critical policy issues affecting Florida's 67 counties and 20 judicial circuits.

Chief Judge Simmons led the 18<sup>th</sup> Circuit during one of the worst economic crisis in State history. In a difficult budget environment, he worked hard to minimize the effects of budget cuts and loss of workforce, even while the court's caseload continued to increase. Judge Simmons hopes to use his position on the TCBC to help deal with the revenue shortfall and look for ways to maintain and improve services, despite cutbacks.

"I am honored to be part of this statewide commission," Judge Simmons said. "In Florida, and around the country, judges and legislators are working hard to balance economic realities with the needs of the courts. We all welcome an opportunity to develop new ideas to help with this relentless challenge."

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