



Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida

For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

FLORIDA SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE PEGGY A. QUINCE VISITS THE 8th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Peggy A. Quince visited the 8th Judicial Circuit today, speaking to members of the 8th Judicial Circuit Bar Association and meeting with local members of the judiciary.

Chief Justice Quince is the first African-American woman to serve on the Florida Supreme Court, and was appointed to serve in 1998. Prior to her Supreme Court appointment, Chief Justice Quince served on the Second District Court of Appeal from 1993 to 1998. Chief Justice Quince also worked as a prosecutor in the Attorney General's Office for more than thirteen years, serving five years as the Tampa Bureau Chief and spending three years exclusively handling death penalty cases on direct appeal and post conviction proceedings. Before moving to Florida, Chief Justice Quince worked in private practice, specializing in real estate and domestic relations, as well as a serving as a hearing officer in Washington, D.C. with the Rental Accommodations Office.

About 120 members of the 8th Judicial Circuit Bar Association attended the luncheon, during which Chief Justice Quince urged Bar members to do more pro bono work, particularly in dependency cases. Chief Justice Quince also discussed the current funding problems affecting the state court system, noting that she'd "never seen the court system in this kind of peril." Chief Justice Quince asked the Bar members to contact their local representatives about the importance of adequately funding the state court system so that the courts can remain open and accessible to the citizens of Florida.

The daughter of a longshoreman, Chief Justice Quince grew up in Norfolk, Virginia. Chief Justice Quince graduated with a degree in zoology from Howard University in 1970 and received her Juris Doctor from Catholic University of America in 1975. Chief Justice Quince is the recipient of many awards including the American Bar Associations 2006 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, the 2002 Florida Bar Equal Opportunities in the Profession Award, the National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division Jurist Award for Outstanding Leadership Achievements and Dedicated Services to the Community At Large and being inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame by Governor Charlie Crist.