

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA: A RICH HISTORY

1845 Congress organizes Florida as one judicial district, authorizes one judgeship. **1846** Isaac H. Bronson appointed as first Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Florida. **1847** Congress divides Florida into Southern and Northern Districts; Judge Bronson is assigned to the Northern; William Marvin is appointed first judge of the Southern District. **1864** Thomas J. Boynton is appointed to replace Judge Marvin. **1871** John McKinney is appointed to replace Judge Boynton. **1872** James W. Locke appointed to replace Judge McKinney. **1879** First federal courthouse for Southern District of Florida built in Tampa. **1906** Court sits in Miami for the first time. **1912** Judge Locke retires after 40 years of service. **1913** Rhydon M. Call appointed to replace Judge Locke. **1914** First permanent structure for the Southern District Court built in Miami. **1922** Temporary judgeship authorized for Southern District. **1924** Lake Jones appointed. **1929** Additional judgeship authorized; Alexander Akerman appointed to fill new seat; Halsted R. Lockwood replaces Judge Call. **1930** Additional judgeship authorized for Southern District. **1931** Louie W. Strum appointed to fill new seat. **1933** New Miami Federal Courthouse completed, still in use today; United States District Court for the Southern District sits in Orlando for the first time. **1934** John W. Holland appointed to replace Judge Ritter. **1935** Court sits in Fort Pierce for the first time. **1940** William J. Barker fills seat vacated by Judge Akerman; One temporary judgeship authorized to serve both Northern



and Southern Districts; Curtis L. Waller is appointed to temporary seat. **1943** Dozier A. Devane replaces Judge Waller. **1949** One additional judgeship authorized to serve the Southern and Northern District of Florida. **1950** George W. Whitehurst appointed by Harry Truman to fill new seat; Judge Strum appointed to Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, replaced by John Milton Bryan Simpson. **1952** Court sits in West Palm Beach and Fort Myers for the first time. **1954** Additional judgeship authorized; Emmet Choate appointed. **1956** Joseph P. Lieb appointed to replace Judge Holland. **1961** William A. McRae, Jr., replaces Judge Barker; two additional judgeships authorized; David W. Dyer appointed to new seat; George C. Young replaces Judge Whitehurst. **1962** Congress establishes Middle District of Florida, transfers three Southern District judgeships to Middle District. **1963** Charles B. Fulton appointed to new seat. **1965** William O. Mehrtens appointed to replace Judge Choate. **1966** Two additional judgeships authorized, filled by C. Clyde Atkins and Ted Cabot; Judge Dyer appointed to Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. **1967** Joe Eaton replaces Judge Dyer. **1970** Two additional judgeships authorized; filled by Peter T. Fay and James Lawrence King. **1972** Norman C. Roettger, Jr. appointed to replace Judge Cabot. **1973** Staffed divisional office of the Southern District opened in Fort Lauderdale. **1974** Federal courthouse in West Palm Beach opens.

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1976 Sidney M. Aronovitz replaces Judge Mehrtens; federal courthouse in Fort Lauderdale is completed; Judge Fay appointed to Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. **1977** William M. Hoeverler replaces Judge Fay. **1978** Five additional judgeships authorized for Southern District of Florida; Jose A. Gonzalez, Jr., appointed to replace Judge Fulton. **1979** Edward B. Davis, James W. Kehoe, James C. Paine, Eugene P. Spellman and Alcee L. Hastings fill new seats. **1980** Congress assigns Southern District to newly-established Eleventh Circuit. **1983** Lenore Carrero Nesbitt replaces Judge Atkins; Federal Courthouse Tower in Miami opened. **1984** Three additional judgeships authorized. **1985** Stanley Marcus, Thomas E. Scott, Jr., and William J. Zloch fill new seats. **1986** Kenneth L. Ryskamp replaces Judge Eaton. **1990** Federico A. Moreno replaces Judge Hastings; additional judgeship authorized. **1991** Donald L. Graham replaces Judge Aronovitz; Shelby Highsmith replaces Judge Scott. **1992** K. Michael Moore replaces Judge Spellman; Ursula M. Ungaro-Benages appointed to new seat. **1993** Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr., replaces Judge Hoeverler; Federal Justice Center completed in Miami. **1994** Daniel T. K. Hurley replaces Judge Paine. **1995** Joan A. Lenard replaces Judge King. **1996** Federal Justice Center renamed James Lawrence King Federal Justice Building. **1997** Judge Marcus appointed to Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals; Donald M. Middlebrooks replaces Judge Kehoe; Alan S. Gold replaces Judge Gonzalez. **1998** William P. Dimitrouleas replaces Judge



Roettger; Patricia A. Seitz replaces Judge Marcus. **1999** Adalberto J. Jordan replaces Judge Nesbitt. **2000** Paul C. Huck replaces Judge Ryskamp. Judge Davis retires after 21 years of service. **2001** Additional judgeship authorized for Southern District. Kenneth A. Marra fills new seat; Judge Nesbitt passes away after 18 years of service on the bench. **2002** Jose E. Martinez replaces Judge Davis; One temporary judgeship authorized for the Southern District. James I. Cohn fills temporary seat; **2003** Cecilia M. Altonaga replaces Judge Highsmith; Judge Roettger passes away after 31 years of service on the bench; Judge Ferguson passes away after 10 years of service on the bench. **2004** Marcia G. Cooke replaces Judge Ferguson. **2007** New Federal Courthouse opens in Miami, Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. United States Courthouse. **2008** United States Courthouse in Miami renamed C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse. **2009** Judge Highsmith retires after 18 years of service. **2010** U.S. Post Office, Custom House, and Courthouse in Key West renamed Sidney M. Aronovitz United States Courthouse; Judge Paine passes away after 31 years on the bench. **2011** Kathleen M. Williams replaces Judge Hurley; Robert N. Scola, Jr. replaces Judge Huck. **2012** Robin S. Rosenbaum replaces Judge Gold; Judge Jordan elevated to Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.