

Arbitration News



Office of Solicitor
Twelfth Judicial Circuit
E.L. Clements III, Solicitor

FIRST QUARTER
MARCH 2015 ISSUE

SERVING FLORENCE AND MARION COUNTIES

Dear Arbitrators,

The year has started well with many of you attending our January training session and I just want to tell you how much we appreciate your passion and willingness to keep your training updated! Our office has also seen an increase in hearings held compared to this time last year and I wanted to thank you for your support and readiness to hear cases. It says so much about an individual that is willing to take their time to embrace all opportunities to reach our young people in our communities. I recently attended a conference in Lake City and it was impressive to see members of the community coming together to network and communicate ways to reach the young people of their communities. This quote came to mind after that meeting.

It's easy to say "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."

— Fred Rogers

You all are community heroes!

*Robin Hewitt
Program Director*

Take a look at the opportunities coming up for training and please make every effort to attend these important sessions.

Training Opportunities

March 3, 2015 – Insider's Program at Poynor Adult Center from 2:00-3:00

March 5, 2015 – Gang Awareness 101 at Florence County Detention Center from 10:00-11:00

March 10, 2015 – Teen Trends at Circle Park Behavioral Prevention Services from 2:00-4:00

March 13, 2015 – Volunteers For Youth Conference in Columbia SC from 9:45-2:15

March 25, 2015 – Florence County Detention Center Tour From 12:30-3:00

March 5, 19, 2015 – Family Court Sessions



New Arbitrators

These five gentlemen joined our team in February.



Dave



Jack



Joe



Martin



Lloyd

Welcome and thank you for being involved in your community and wanting to make a difference!

Quick Stats for First Quarter

Referrals – 45

Hearings Held – 33

**Community Service to date – 409
Hours**

Donations to date- \$516

Happy Birthday



Alice, Patrick, Bob, and Emma

What's Happening In Juvenile Justice



Haley announces new DJJ director

By HARRISON CAHILL

hcahill@thestate.com January 8, 2015

Gov. Nikki Haley appointed Sylvia Murray as the agency's new director Thursday.

COLUMBIA, SC — The acting director of the Department of Juvenile Justice has been tapped as the agency's permanent head.

Gov. Nikki Haley announced Sylvia Murray as director, effective Thursday, during a news conference.

Just Tuesday, Haley announced that Murray would serve as acting director to replace retired director Margaret Barber and that a search was under way for Barber's successor.

But Haley said in looking for a replacement, she knew Murray was the best option.

"I typically don't go within the agency. I go outside of the agency to find the my next leader," Haley said. "What I saw was there was no one better than Sylvia Murray."

Haley commended the work done by Barber during her time at DJJ and said she is confident in Murray's capability to lead the nationally accredited agency. DJJ, with about 1,400 employees, oversees about 140 prisoners and another 8,500 juveniles in other disciplinary programs.

Murray, 53, has worked as the agency's deputy director of administrative services. The Sumter native received an undergraduate degree in public affairs from Columbia College and a masters in management from Webster University.

Murray worked for eight years at the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, starting in July 1995. She served as the department's business manager, grants administrator and accounting manager throughout her time there. She also worked at the Department of Consumer Affairs before joining Juvenile Justice in 2004.

Murray started at DJJ as the senior business manager, serving eight years before becoming the deputy director of administrative service in January 2013. According to Haley, she has been

Barber's right-hand person for the past four years. "We are so proud to get where we are right now," Barber said. "Sylvia is going to take the agency to another level."

Murray is the third African-American cabinet chief among 17 agency heads Haley has appointed since her election in 2010. But Murray is one of only two African-Americans currently serving in her cabinet. The other is Leroy Smith, director of the S.C. Department of Public Safety since 2011. Haley selected Kela Thomas in 2011 to be the director of the S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, but Thomas resigned from the position in December for unknown reasons. Murray's initial annual salary is \$118,545, but it will be re-evaluated by the Agency Head Salary Commission, which will suggest a salary for her.

The Associated Press contributed

Read more here: http://www.thestate.com/2015/01/08/3915532_gov-haley-announces-sylvia-murray.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

Quick DJJ Facts

Facts from 2013 - 2014 South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice Annual Statistical Report

Visit <http://www.state.sc.us/djj/>

Ten Most Frequent Offenses Associated with Juvenile Cases to the Solicitor FY 2013/2014

- 1 Assault and Battery 3rd degree 2,426- **15%**
- 2 Shoplifting 1,328 - **8%**
- 3 Disturbing Schools 1,189- **7%**
- 4 Public Disorderly Conduct 1,124- **7%**
- 5 Simple Possession of Marijuana 850- **5%**
- 6 Truancy** 774 - **5%**
- 7 Contempt of Court (Status Offense) 740- **5%**
- 8 Probation Violation (Cat. V) Misdemeanor* 702- **4%**
- 9 Petit Larceny 550- **3%**
- 10 Incurigibility** 442- **3%**

In FY 13-14, the 10 offenses listed above accounted for over half of the 16,754 juvenile cases processed through intake by DJJ. These included two **status offenses (truancy and incurigibility). All criminal charges in the top 10 were misdemeanors. Overall, more than 250 individual offenses were involved in juvenile cases forwarded to the solicitor. Other offenses frequently associated with these cases included another status offense, running away (345 cases), burglary 2nd degree (339 cases), and carrying a weapon on school grounds (331 cases).

In FY 13-14, Solicitors diverted, dismissed, or did not prosecute over half of juvenile cases (53%). Forty-seven percent of the cases moved forward to the Family Court based on decisions to prosecute or issue rule to show cause petitions.