

D.A. 5-31-96



FILED

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SID J. WHITE

MAY 18 1996

CLERK, SUPREME COURT

Clerk Deputy Clerk

William T. Swigert

CHIEF JUDGE

FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

OF FLORIDA

Counties:

CITRUS
HERNANDO
LAKE
MARION
SUMTER

Chambers:
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Rosemary B. Spivey
JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

May 9, 1996

The Supreme Court of Florida
Honorable Sid J. White, Clerk
Supreme Court Building
500 Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1927

Re: Proposed Rule Change

877,678

Dear Mr. White,

Having recently had the opportunity to review the proposed change to Rule 2.050(c), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, regarding the selection and terms of chief judges I would like to submit some comments for the Court's consideration.

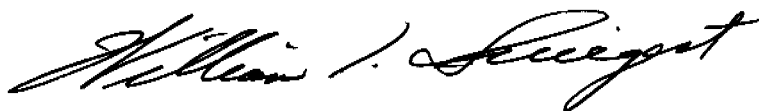
The Fifth Judicial Circuit has a history of multiple term chief judges and has enjoyed over two decades of unity, cooperation and corporate effort within the judiciary. The multiple terms of the current and previous chief judges have given us the ability to pursue long term goals on a consistent basis. Through the assistance and leadership of very competent appointed administrative judges under the direction of a long-term chief judge, we have built a court that experiences very little internal conflict and is conducive to input from all judges within the circuit.

In short, the ability to freely elect a chief judge to extended multiple terms has well served the needs of this court. No reason exists within the Fifth Judicial Circuit requiring the need for an amendment to the current practice of election of the chief judge. Indeed, it

is my opinion that the judges within each circuit should be free to elect, by simple majority, any circuit judge whom they feel will best serve the needs of their circuit.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William T. Swigert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

WILLIAM T. SWIGERT
Chief Judge
Fifth Judicial Circuit

cc: All Chief Judges