



O.A. 5-31-96

FILED

SID J. WHITE  
MAY 15 1996

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THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF FLORIDA

CLERK, SUPREME COURT  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Deputy Clerk

CHAMBERS OF  
RICHARD L. OFTEDAL  
CHIEF JUDGE

COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33401  
407/355-4897

May 13, 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

87,678

Dear Mr. White:

I have received a copy of the proposed amendment to Rule 2.050(c), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration regarding the selection and terms of chief judges. For the reasons which follow, I oppose adoption of the amendment.

Unlike some other circuits, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit does not have a history of multiple term chief judges. Nonetheless, I believe strongly that the decision as to whether a chief judge should be permitted to stand for election for multiple terms should be made by a majority of those individual judges within the circuit, unencumbered by rule or order. Comments that I have received from other chief judges indicate that the practice of electing chief judges to multiple terms has served their circuit well, providing long-term unity, leadership, and stability. Furthermore, I have not been made aware of any reason or problems necessitating an amendment to the current practice.

Thank you for kind attention and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Oftedal  
Chief Judge  
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

cc: All Chief Judges

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