



Judicial Profile-Harold Jeffrey Cohen

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On Thursday, November 8, 1984 the Honorable Harold Jeffrey Cohen was informed by Governor Bob Graham that he was appointed circuit court judge for a newly created division in Palm Beach County, Florida. Judge Cohen has been on the county court bench for the last eight years and was overjoyed with the news. He feels he has accomplished what he set out to do in the county court and it is time to move on to circuit court.

Beginning this December Judge Cohen leaves the county court to preside in Judge Born's criminal division. Judge Born is currently involved in a lengthy criminal trial and Judge Cohen will attend to the other matters in that division. His official term commenced November 15, 1984. In January 1985, he will be assigned to a one-month new and special criminal felony division. Thereafter, beginning February 1, 1985, Judge Cohen will be assigned to a newly created civil division. The state attorney's office has been lobbying for a new criminal division and this will be reviewed sometime in 1985.

Judge Cohen resides in West Palm Beach with his wife Linda, and son Mitchell. He graduated from Harpur College, now the State University of New York at Binghamton, in 1967 and received his law degree from George Washington University in 1971. During his senior year at law school while working as an intern at the United State's Attorneys Office in Washington, D.C. he became interested in litigation and the court system.

His move to Palm Beach County was a result of his coincidental meeting with Judge Dan Hurley, then an assistant county solicitor working for the chief prosecutor, now the Honorable Marvin Mounts. Judge Dan Hurley was at George Washington University Law School interviewing over the Christmas holidays for students interested in working for the Palm Beach County prosecutor's office. Judge Cohen was invited to come to Palm Beach County in January to meet the staff. This was not a difficult offer to accept considering the weather in January in Washington, D.C. compared to the weather in Palm Beach County and Judge Cohen began his career as an assistant county solicitor for Palm Beach County, Florida. After Judge Mounts resigned as county solicitor to sit on the Circuit Court, Judge Cohen continued working for David Blutworth as an assistant state attorney. Four years later the legislature set up a new county judgeship in Palm Beach County and in 1976 Judge Cohen ran for that seat and won the election. He ran unopposed in 1980 and 1984. Judge Harold Cohen is looking forward to the added responsibilities and challenges awaiting him both in the criminal and civil divisions of the circuit court.

