

Judicial Profile on Judge Michael Gersten
By Joseph Ianno, Jr.
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Lieutenant Colonel Gersten, his formal title in the military, became a Circuit Court Judge in Palm Beach County on January 3, 1989/

Judge Gersten's educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Virginia Military Institute in English in 1964. After four and a half years in the military, he went back to school and received a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University. Judge Gersten received his Juris Doctor degree from Indiana University in 1974.

Michael Gersten has earned numerous titles during his life. For instance, while in graduate school at Michigan State, he spent three and a half years with the East Lansing Police Department where he was Officer Gersten. After he obtained his Masters and J.D., he was known as Dr. Gersten, before most recently becoming Judge Michael Gersten.

Judge Gersten's military career included two years in Vietnam as a military policeman and four years in the Advocate General's corps after he graduated from law school. The Judge is proud to be the first Vietnam veteran who has been elected to the bench in Palm Beach County.

How did Judge Gersten wind up in Palm Beach County? While serving in JAG, Officer Gersten met David Bludworth of Palm Beach County. Bludworth offered Mike Gersten a job as an Assistant State Attorney where he worked for five years. Subsequently, he went into private practice as a sole practitioner and later formed a partnership with Peggy Rowe-Linn.

Judge Gersten's duties are divided between the Family Law Division and the Probate Division. Approximately 80% of his time is devoted to the Family Law Division. In the Probate Division, the Judge's duties are focused primarily on ex parte matters.