



Judicial Profile- Howard H. Harrison, Jr.
By: Eric C. Santo - 1982

There is a man in a courtroom adjacent to the West Palm Beach Police Station on Datura Street. He usually can be found there day and night faithfully serving the public by fulfilling the arduous duties of a non-jury, county court judge.

Despite the long hours that a steadily growing non-jury docket requires, Judge Howard H. Harrison, Jr. had found the time and the energy to carry on a full and happy family life in addition to a second career as an instructor at a local junior college for the past 10 years.

The judge's own collegiate education began at the University of Maryland when he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1960. After graduation, Judge Harrison attended the law school at New York University, where he graduated in 1963. The following year he moved to Florida.

Judge Harrison served as First Assistant County Solicitor for Palm Beach County for two years before being elected to the County Court in 1968. Although a great deal of time is spent on the bench, or in the classroom, when he returns to his Lantana home, he can always find time for his hobbies, tennis and waterskiing, and his favorite people-his four children and his wife, Catherine.

VIEWPOINT

Pet Peeve: "Redundancy and not getting to the point."

D.U.I. Law: "I do not think it has changed a thing. The same percentage of people plead guilty as before. More people initially plead not guilty, but they plead guilty later. This doubles the appearances in court, but it works out the same."

The Public: "I have become more sympathetic to both sides because I realize the pressure is on them to sell something to me. The pressure is not on me."

Aspirations: "To live a long life and be healthy."

Night Court: "I do not like it, but I think it is necessary. All of a sudden we are just absolutely flooded with non-jury criminal cases. When I first came over here (Datura Street), I got virtually no non-jury criminal cases. All of a sudden an enormous number of people are just waiving jury trials. This has never happened to me before."