

Judge Mark Eissey

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The first thing you notice after entering Judge Mark Eissey's chambers is that he is a huge sports fan. Pictures of basketball teams for which Judge Eissey has either coached or played adorn the walls. Accompanying them is one of the Judge's prized possessions: a signed plaque of former Louisiana State University and NBA standout "Pistol" Pete Maravich. Beaming with admiration for his boyhood idol, Judge Eissey recalls that "Pistol" Pete averaged 44.2 points per game for LSU. It is this same dedication to excellence and professionalism that Judge Eissey brings to his courtroom.

A native of West Palm Beach, Judge Eissey was born in 1962 and attended both Cardinal Newman High School and The Benjamin School. Thereafter, he attended Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee where he played point guard on the basketball team. After graduating from Belmont in 1985, Judge Eissey went on to earn his Juris Doctor degree from Nova Southeastern University in 1988.

Upon completion of his formal education, Judge Eissey immediately began working for the State Attorney's Office in Palm Beach County. After 17 years of service as a prosecutor, attorney Mark Eissey decided to run to become Judge Mark Eissey, and on January 4, 2005, he was sworn in as a Judge on the County Court bench.

As a member of the bench, Judge Eissey at this time exclusively handles misdemeanor criminal cases. For this reason, and given both his experiences as a former prosecutor and his familiarity with the courtroom, Judge Eissey comfortably transitioned into his new position. This sense of familiarity allows Judge Eissey to focus on his goal of making his courtroom a place where all parties are heard and treated with respect and professionalism. Noting that County Court is truly a "people's court," and pointing out that by and large, the defendants in his courtroom are not hardened criminals, Judge Eissey recognizes that even though not everyone in his courtroom can walk away happy, he can make sure that everyone is afforded the dignity and respect they deserve.

Outside of the law, Judge Eissey still plays basketball twice every week. He is an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church, and he contributes to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, a cause near and dear to his heart. Judge Eissey is also a family man. Over the years, he has taken the time to coach his son Matt's basketball, football, and baseball teams; and every week, the Judge can be found with Matt, his daughter Lauren, his

wife Wendy, and his entire extended family having Sunday dinner – an Eissey family tradition. It is this love of community that has brought Judge Eissey to the bench and to a position in which he feels “blessed... to serve the people of Palm Beach County.”

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