

Clerk of Court Jon S. Wheeler retiring after 48 years of service to Country and State

The Clerk of the First District Court of Appeal, Jon Wheeler, will complete his exceptional career of professional service and achievement at the end of October 2017.

Jon's career of nearly five decades started with his college days as an FSU undergraduate ROTC student in the 1960s, followed by being a member of the first graduating class at FSU College of Law in 1968. He then left Tallahassee for the Air Force where he completed over twenty-one years as a judge advocate, attained the rank of Colonel and served in prestigious assignments around the globe, including advising two Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

While in the Pentagon Jon noticed an ad in The Florida Bar News for the Clerk of Court at the First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee. He shared this with his wife MaryLynn, a fellow FSU graduate and classmate, and they set their sights on returning to Tallahassee. Jon was selected to be the Clerk in a highly competitive process, retired from the Air Force, and was appointed Clerk of Court at the end of 1990. For the last twenty-seven years he has led the Clerk's Office in managing the heavy administrative flow of appeals, served forty-one appellate judges, and has been a state and national leader in court administration.

Jon's list of awards for professional merit are too numerous to recount. He has been recognized at every step of his dual careers for his dedication to duty, legal acumen, management and leadership skills, and innovative vision. He has performed the full range of legal positions from prosecutor, defense counsel, judge, general counsel, legislative support, and appellate administrator. Jon has been a key participant in the transformation of judicial case processing from voluminous paper records to a fully automated electronic filing and reporting system. Jon's example of patriotism and leadership has been an inspiration to all at the First District Court of Appeal, and positively influenced the administration of justice throughout the State of Florida.

Jon and MaryLynn have been married fifty-one years and lead an active family life comprised of their three children, their spouses and seven grandchildren. One of Jon's sons, a senior Air Force officer, is currently following his Dad's footsteps and serving in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Another child is a plastic surgeon in Spokane, and the third practices physical therapy in Richmond. Jon and MaryLynn are avid sports fans, and can always be found in the bleachers rooting for the 'Noles or traveling to be with their family. They are also active members of Good Shepherd Catholic Church.