

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
CHAMBERS OF
FEDERICO A. MORENO
CHIEF U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSES
THIRTEENTH FLOOR
400 NORTH MIAMI AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128

July 21, 2011

Senator Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nominations of Kathleen Williams and Robert Scola to the U.S. District Court for the
Southern District of Florida

Dear Senator Reid,

As Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, I urge you to expedite the Senate's confirmation of Kathleen Williams and Robert Scola to the positions of district judges in our district. I understand that the Judiciary Committee has sent both nominations by unanimous voice vote and is awaiting a vote by the full Senate. Ms. Williams, our district's Federal Public Defender, has been awaiting confirmation for the longest period of any present nominee to the district court in the entire country. State Judge Robert Scola's nomination is of a more recent vintage but the litigants are eagerly awaiting his confirmation.

The judgeship Ms. Williams has been nominated to fill has been vacant for two years! At the present time, our district has three vacancies. Unfilled positions in our Court present an undue hardship on the citizens residing in the Southern District of Florida, particularly those with cases pending in the affected division of the Court. Our district is huge and heavily populated. It includes the most populous counties in Florida, Miami-Dade, Broward (where Fort Lauderdale is located) and Palm Beach Counties. The district also includes Monroe, St. Lucie, Highlands, Okeechobee, Martin, and Indian River Counties.

We have been laboring under a judicial shortage for quite some time. The Judicial Conference of the United States has for the past several years annually recommended to Congress three additional permanent judgeships and to convert one temporary judgeship into a permanent one.

This shortage is exacerbated by the fact that we are one of the busiest district courts in the nation. Our district had 10,556 new filings in both criminal and civil cases in 2010, an increase of 6.7% over the year 2000. The latest national statistics (FY 2010) are attached and show that our district is first in "weighted filings" in the Eleventh Circuit.

In sum, the judicial shortage with three vacancies in our district is becoming acute. For this reason, I ask your assistance in expediting both confirmations. The Judiciary Committee has found the nominees qualified and the people of South Florida eagerly await their service.

Please call me if I can provide any additional information. I thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Federico A. Moreno', with a stylized, flowing script.

Federico A. Moreno
CHIEF U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

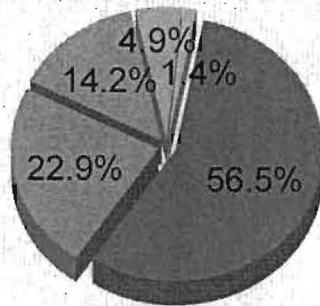
encl.

c: Senator Bill Nelson
Senator Marco Rubio

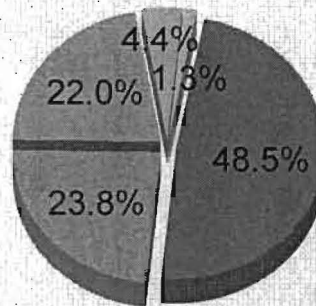
Statistics....Total Filings

Civil and Criminal Filings by Division Fiscal Year (Oct 1 - Sep 30)

Distribution of Total Filings



2000



2010

Miami

Ft. Lauderdale

West Palm Beach

Ft. Pierce

Key West

	Civil Filings			Criminal Filings			Total Filings		
	2000	2010	Change	2000	2010	Change	2000	2010	Change
Miami	4,535	4,195	-7.5%	1,056	925	-12.4%	5,591	5,120	-8.4%
Ft. Lauderdale	1,904	2,175	14.2%	363	333	-8.3%	2,267	2,508	10.6%
West Palm Beach	1,240	2,148	73.2%	168	174	3.6%	1,408	2,322	64.9%
Ft. Pierce	411	373	-9.2%	74	95	28.4%	485	468	-3.5%
Key West	98	105	7.1%	44	33	-25.0%	142	138	-2.8%
District	8,188	8,996	9.9%	1,705	1,560	-8.5%	9,893	10,556	6.7%

Notes: Includes original and reopen filings. Excludes misc. filings.

Sources: CM/ECF; Administrative Office of the United States Courts. (2000,2010). Data File Exchange. Tables: C, D.

http://jnet.ao.dcn/Statistics/Data_File_Exchange.html

U.S. DISTRICT COURT -- JUDICIAL CASELOAD PROFILE

FLORIDA SOUTHERN			12-MONTH PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30						NUMERICAL STANDING WITHIN U.S. CIRCUIT	
			2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005		
OVERALL CASELOAD STATISTICS	Filings*		10,930	10,639	9,926	9,011	8,511	9,097	42 9	4 1
	Terminations		10,856	10,775	9,506	9,362	8,979	9,463		
	Pending		5,803	5,703	6,035	5,563	6,538	6,948		
	Percent Change In Total Filings Current Year		Over Last Year. . . 2.7 Over Earlier Years. . . 10.1		21.3	28.4	20.1			
Number of Judgeships			18	18	18	18	18	18		
Vacant Judgeship Months**			13.0	7.1	.0	.0	.0	.0		
ACTIONS PER JUDGESHIP	FILINGS	Total	607	591	551	500	473	505	13	2
		Civil	500	480	434	393	373	397	7	2
		Criminal Felony	86	89	97	88	76	87	32	3
		Supervised Release Hearings	21	22	20	19	24	21	61	6
	Pending Cases		322	317	335	309	363	386	66	7
	Weighted Filings**		668	595	593	549	501	525	8	1
	Terminations		603	599	528	520	499	526	13	2
	Trials Completed		26	29	27	22	19	20	21	3
MEDIAN TIMES (MONTHS)	From Filing to Disposition	Criminal Felony	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.8	7	1
		Civil**	3.9	4.3	4.6	5.0	6.7	6.6	1	1
	From Filing to Trial** (Civil Only)		16.9	15.7	15.6	17.9	16.3	16.7	7	1
OTHER	Number (and %) of Civil Cases Over 3 Years Old**		63 1.3	73 1.6	474 10.0	618 13.7	962 16.9	902 14.9	4	2
	Average Number of Felony Defendants Filed per Case		1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5		
	Jurors	Avg. Present for Jury Selection	43.90	47.72	46.27	46.56	49.48	41.83		
		Percent Not Selected or Challenged	21.2	23.1	22.4	26.2	26.9	21.7		

**FOR NATIONAL PROFILE AND NATURE OF SUIT AND OFFENSE CLASSIFICATIONS
SHOWN BELOW -- OPEN THE FOLD-OUT PAGE AT THE BACK COVER**

2010 CIVIL AND CRIMINAL FELONY CASE FILINGS BY NATURE OF SUIT AND OFFENSE													
Type of	TOTAL	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Civil	8996	178	1268	1113	90	91	1427	1411	864	297	791	31	1435
Criminal*	1535	38	280	302	135	516	39	57	33	23	26	50	36

* Filings in the "Overall Caseload Statistics" section include criminal transfers, while filings "By Nature of Offense" do not

** See "Explanation of Selected Terms."

The Southern District of Florida



*Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr.
Courthouse—Miami*



*James Lawrence King Federal
Justice Building—Miami*



*C. Clyde Atkins
Courthouse—Miami*



*Sidney M. Aronovitz
Courthouse—Key West*



*U. S. Courthouse -
Fort Pierce*



*U. S. Federal Building and
Courthouse—Fort Lauderdale*



*Paul G. Rogers Federal Building
and Courthouse—West Palm Beach*

The Southern District of Florida (SDFL) has long been one of the busiest Federal trial courts in this country. Stretching over 300 miles, from Fort Pierce in the north to the nation's southernmost point in Key West, the Court's bench includes 18 authorized District Judge positions; 6 Senior District Judges; 16 Magistrate Judge positions; and 3 recalled Magistrate Judges in 2010. The Court convenes court in five divisions—Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, Fort Pierce and Key West—and maintains full-time staff in each.

The Southern District's Judges are supported by over 160 full-time Clerk's Office employees and over 100 chambers staff. The duties of this dedicated work force involve a broad spectrum of service ranging from operational activities, including case processing and courtroom support, to administrative services such as budget and financial activities. Because the efficient functioning of a court this size requires a wide variety of professional support, a full cross-section of professional disciplines is represented. Our staff includes lawyers, who directly assist chambers; linguists, who provide interpreter services in a wide variety of languages; computer technicians, who

support all aspects of court automation; architects, engineers, and mechanics, who plan, maintain, and support the Court's facilities; and other highly-skilled professionals. All Court staff, wherever assigned, work closely with other governmental agencies and participants in the criminal justice system to provide necessary support services for the prompt and efficient handling of court matters.

With the help of this diversely skilled work force, the Court processed 1560 new criminal case filings involving than 2484 criminal defendants, and 8996 civil case filings during 2010. The Southern District's caseload reflects not only the increasing population of South Florida, but also the diversity and uniqueness of the communities it serves. In addition to one of the most complex criminal caseloads in the country, the Southern District also has a unique mix of civil and international litigation stemming from its geographic location as a gateway to the Caribbean and South America. The Court's docket has also included internationally notorious criminal and civil cases with social and political overtones.