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CHIEF JUDGE  
MARTHA C. WARNER  
W. MATTHEW STEVENSON  
ROBERT M. GROSS  
CAROLE Y. TAYLOR  
MELANIE G. MAY  
DORIAN K. DAMOORGIAN  
JONATHAN D. GERBER  
SPENCER D. LEVINE  
BURTON C. CONNER  
ALAN O. FORST  
MARK W. KLINGENSMITH  
JUDGES



DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL  
STATE OF FLORIDA  
FOURTH DISTRICT  
1525 PALM BEACH LAKES BOULEVARD  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33401  
561-242-2000

LONN WEISSBLUM  
CLERK  
LYNN COLLETTI  
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK  
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DEP. DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL STAFF

March 8, 2016

Honorable Rick Scott  
Executive Office of Governor Rick Scott  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Re: Retirement as District Court of Appeal Judge effective May 31, 2016

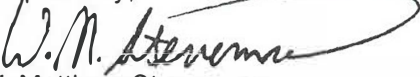
Dear Governor Scott:

Please accept this letter as an announcement of my retirement as a Judge on the Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal, effective close of business May 31, 2016.

I have served as a member of the Florida judiciary since 1989 after being appointed to the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Palm Beach County, by then Governor Bob Martinez. In 1994, I was privileged to be elevated to the Fourth District Court of Appeal by the late and highly esteemed Governor Lawton Chiles. I was honored to be the first African-American jurist appointed to this highly respected court. At this time I wish to express my sincere appreciation to both former Governor Martinez and the late Governor Chiles for their appointments. I thank the voters as well for their confidence in returning me to the bench during many elections over the years.

My more than 25 years on the bench have been rewarding and challenging. I have truly been blessed by the opportunity to serve as a Judge in the State of Florida, and in particular the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit and the Fourth District Court of Appeal. I will miss the daily legal challenges presented by the thousands of appellate cases which I have adjudicated and will miss my colleagues and the dedicated members of the court staff. I look forward to perhaps continuing my judicial service as a senior judge from time to time. I hope that other young people will follow in my path and enjoy as much success in the pursuit of their dreams as I have in the pursuit of mine.

Respectfully,

  
W. Matthew Stevenson  
District Court of Appeal Judge  
Fourth District Court of Appeal

Cc: Cory J. Ciklin, Chief Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal  
Jorge Labarga, Chief Justice, Florida Supreme Court  
✓ Tim Cerio, General Counsel, Executive Office of the Governor