



Cynthia Hunold has served as Assistant Public Defender for nearly 30 years and is presently the Director of Clay County where she ensures the professional administration of a quality defense is available to all. She leads a staff of seven attorneys, four support staff and one investigator. Ms. Hunold represents clients in some of Clay County's most serious cases; including homicides, sexual batteries, arson and armed robberies. In all, she has defended indigent clients in more than 100 jury trials.

Previously, Ms. Hunold served four years as Director of County Court in Duval County; she trained and supervised eleven attorneys, secretarial and paralegal staff in misdemeanor court. She also coordinated legal interns. In 2009, the Public Defender initiated the first of its kind in Northeast Florida, PD Pro Bono Opportunities which Ms. Hunold conducted for four years. She developed criminal law training for private lawyers volunteering Pro Bono legal services to PD clients. In 2011 she coordinated a highly successful Amnesty Day, which helped eliminate dozens of dated, non-violent charges

from Court dockets. With a well-established reputation as a compassionate and strong advocate, Ms. Hunold has been an invaluable mentor to dozens of defense attorneys.

Ms. Hunold has served three Public Defenders and has gained extensive legal and professional experiences. In addition to assignments in nearly every division in the office, including division chief of a number of felony divisions, she was the mental health division chief representing clients in civil commitment hearings. In this role, she was responsible for the implementation of a new policy allowing mentally ill clients to have their hearings at the mental health facility, as opposed to having them transported to the courthouse in shackles. She has provided crisis intervention training to future correctional officers at the Criminal Justice Department of Florida State College on a number of occasions, and has provided training in civil commitments to hospital staff and physicians at various mental health receiving facilities at their request.

In 2012, Cynthia Hunold joined the Board of Directors at Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. This commitment allows her to further help those less fortunate navigate the complicated civil legal system. Other professional affiliations include the Jacksonville Bar Association, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Key Stats:

* J.D., Stetson University College of Law; B.A. University of North Florida

* Appointed APD '87, elevated to Director County Court '09, Clay County Office, '13

* Coordinated launch of first PD Pro Bono Opportunities, '09

Contact:

Email: cch@pd4.coj.net
Phone: (904) 278-3632
Media requests scheduled through Public Information Office, (904) 255-4604.