



Second Judicial Circuit of Florida

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 18, 2025**

A Legacy of Service: The Retirement of Circuit Judge John C. Cooper

Tallahassee, FL --- The Second Judicial Circuit will formally recognize the retirement of Circuit Judge John C. Cooper on Friday, December 19, at 3:00 p.m., during a special gathering at the Leon County Courthouse. His retirement concludes more than two decades of distinguished service on the circuit court bench, leaving behind a legacy of judicial independence, professionalism, and deep commitment to the rule of law.

Judge Cooper was elected to the Second Judicial Circuit Court in 2002 and took office in 2003, where he presided over tens of thousands of cases spanning from civil, criminal, family, probate, and complex constitutional and administrative matters, many of which carried statewide significance due to the circuit's location in the state capital.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Cooper practiced law in Tallahassee for more than 25 years, handling a broad range of civil litigation including local government defense, civil rights, employment law, land use, corporate law, and professional liability. This extensive private-practice background uniquely prepared him to manage the Second Judicial Circuit's high-volume and multifaceted docket.

A lifelong Tallahassee resident, Judge Cooper earned both his Bachelor of Arts (1972) and Juris Doctor (1974) degrees from Florida State University and was admitted to The Florida Bar in 1975. He is also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Middle Districts of Florida, the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits, and the United States Supreme Court.

During his judicial career, Judge Cooper presided over numerous complex cases involving constitutional interpretation, administrative law, and large-scale commercial disputes. His rulings consistently reflected a careful adherence to constitutional text, evidentiary record, and procedural fairness, reinforcing the judiciary's role as an independent branch of government.

Colleagues and court staff alike recognize Judge Cooper for his steady leadership, thoughtful legal analysis, and unwavering respect for litigants, attorneys, and the judicial process. His commitment to transparency and consistency helped shape courtroom practices and procedures that will continue to serve the circuit well into the future.

The Second Judicial Circuit extends its sincere gratitude to Judge Cooper for his decades of service to the people of Florida and wishes him well in his retirement.

Members of the media are invited to attend.

For additional information, or to schedule an interview with Judge Cooper, please contact Elizabeth Garber, Court Administrator, 850-606-4427, garbere@leoncountyfl.gov

Retirement Event Details:

What: Retirement Ceremony for Judge John C. Cooper

When: Friday, December 19, at 3:00 p.m.

Where: Courtroom 2E, Leon County Courthouse, Tallahassee, Florida

