



**MELISSA W. NELSON**  
**STATE ATTORNEY**

**Minutes of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee**  
**Sept. 29, 2017**  
**Holland & Knight, 50 N. Laura St., Jacksonville, Florida**

**Present:**

Buddy Schulz, the Honorable Suzanne Bass, Jim Clark, the Honorable Brian Davis, Pamela Davis, Rory Diamond, Shelley Grant, Marcus Haile, Gretchen Hamm, Elder Lee Harris, Bill Hodges, Alan Louder, Michael Meyers, Lara Nezami, Deloris Patterson, the Honorable Jack Schemer, Anthony Stinson, Nina Waters, Vicki Waytowich, Donna Webb.

**Meeting**

JJAC Chair Buddy Schulz introduces State Attorney Melissa Nelson.

Nelson welcomes the JJAC members and thanks them for their agreeing to serve for a year on the committee. Nelson thanks the SAO staff by having them stand, before discussing the origins of the committee. It started as a concept she thought of launching shortly after taking office in January/February. Is thankful that didn't happen – the extra time has provided greater consideration to what the final ask and work product will look like. Nelson describes how prosecutors' decisions have "far reaching impacts" and "long term effects" and wants to ensure the work is making the community safer. She wants to know how the office can "do it better" and whether the "net" of offenses should be expanded. Nelson explains that over the course of the next year, the committee will hear from speakers and presenters and learn of strategies used elsewhere the committee should consider when creating recommendations for juvenile programming for the office.

Schulz provides his introductory remarks, highlighting quotes from *Roper v. Simmons*, *Graham v. Florida*, *J.D.B. v. North Carolina* with the focus being the differences in law, medicine and science between the juvenile and adult brain.

Committee members spend a few minutes going around the table introducing themselves aloud and sharing their backgrounds, particularly as it pertains to juvenile justice.

Laura Lothman Lambert, State Attorney's Office juvenile director, introduces Meredith Charbula, State Attorney's Office legal director, who then goes into an overview of the Sunshine Law as it pertains to the committee. That PowerPoint presentation is available on the dedicated JJAC page.

Lambert provides a PowerPoint presentation of an overview of the juvenile justice system. That PowerPoint presentation is available on the dedicated JJAC page.

Former Assistant Chief State Attorney Jay Plotkin is introduced to present a PowerPoint discussion regarding a history of diversion in the Fourth Judicial Circuit. That PowerPoint presentation is available on the dedicated JJAC page.

It was decided the final presentation scheduled would be postponed until the next meeting due to a lack of time.

No speakers wished to participate in public comment and the meeting adjourned.

The next JJAC meeting is scheduled for 9-11 a.m. Oct. 27 at the same venue of Holland & Knight.

