



ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

LAWSON E. THOMAS COURTHOUSE CENTER

175 N.W. FIRST AVENUE

MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128

JOSEPH P. FARINA
CHIEF JUDGE

(305) 349-7054

February 20, 2008

RE: Budget Reductions

Dear Bar President:

The judicial branch was recently advised that due to the State of Florida's budgetary deficit totaling approximately 4 billion dollars, the State Courts' budget would have to be reduced by more than 16 million dollars by June 30, 2008. While this unanticipated reduction amounts to only 0.06% of the state budget, the loss of these funds would be devastating to the judicial branch and its ability to provide access to justice and quality service to the public.

Specifically, as a consequence of the judiciary's loss of funds, at a minimum, the following may occur:

- Criminal cases would be prioritized, but may nevertheless experience unavoidable delays which will result in difficulties complying with speedy trial requirements.
- Child abuse cases and child-custody hearings would be postponed.
- Alimony, divorce, and commercial litigation hearings would come to a halt.
- Banks would face long delays getting foreclosed homes back on the market.

Unfortunately, the judiciary's appeal to the legislative branch that reducing our budget would have dire, possibly irreparable consequences, has been unpersuasive. Thus, we are asking our colleagues in the legal profession to assist us in this effort by immediately contacting our state legislators to urge them to reconsider the proposed cuts to the State Courts' budget. Enclosed herewith is the contact information for the legislators.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. However, should you need additional information, please contact me at (305) 349-7054.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Farina", written over a large, stylized blue scribble.

Joseph P. Farina

JPF/lmr
Enclosure