



# Supreme Court of Florida

## PROCLAMATION IN RE CAMERAS IN THE COURTS

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Supreme Court permanently opened our state's courtrooms to cameras and other electronic media in the case In re Petition of Post-Newsweek Stations, Florida, Inc., on April 12, 1979;

**WHEREAS**, the Florida state courts showed remarkable wisdom, foresight and courage 30 years ago by breaking away from the conventional thinking that had barred cameras from courtrooms across the country for more than four decades;

**WHEREAS**, the state courts also showed persistence and true leadership in the face of fears and opposition expressed by the legal community in Florida and the nation, establishing a year-long statewide pilot project and soliciting feedback from judges, attorneys, plaintiffs, defendants, jurors, witnesses and all other interested parties;

**WHEREAS**, the state courts, acting with thoughtful deliberation, analyzed all comments and concluded that "on balance there is more to be gained than lost" by allowing cameras into courtrooms;

**WHEREAS**, the Court in 1979 wisely noted that "A democratic system of government is not the safest form of government, it is just the best man has devised to date, and it works best when its citizens are informed about its working" and specifically cited Florida's commitment to open government as a "prime motivating consideration" in its decision;

**WHEREAS**, the openness of all court proceedings – the historic and high-profile as well as the ordinary and little-noted – is a very good thing for the people who are interested in what is happening, for the reputation of the judiciary, and for public confidence in our democracy;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Peggy A. Quince, Chief Justice of Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2009, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Post-Newsweek Stations decision, to be a time of commemoration for this important decision, which opened our courts to cameras and other electronic media, allowing journalists to bring the images and sounds of the real work of justice to the public at large.

**DONE IN CHAMBERS** on this the 31st day of March, Two Thousand and Nine.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peggy A. Quince", written over a horizontal line.

PEGGY A. QUINCE  
Chief Justice

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas B. Hall", written over a horizontal line.

ATTEST: THOMAS B. HALL  
Clerk of Court