

Judicial Profile Deborah Pucillo

By: Sandy Sprague

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By this time, Deborah Dale Pucillo will have been sworn in as the newest County Judge. Although she is only thirty-four years old, this refined young woman brings to the Bench some solid experience at the State Attorney's office where she has been chief of the Major Crime Division for the last three years. Her final and most famous trial was in the Bergelson case, which she won on the eve of her first day on the Bench.

Judge Pucillo was obvious a bright, hard-working student at Mount Holyoke and Columbia Law School where she received her law degree in a special six-year program. She grew up in Barrington and Kingston, Rhode Island. Her father, who died in 1979, was a college professor at the University of Rhode Island in the Engineering Department and later, an engineer for the United States Navy. Her mother is now the Clinical Dietician at Wellington Regional Medical Center. Her only brother has remained in New England and is involved in corporate management.

Her relationship with her sister Cynthia is a story unto itself. Cynthia came to visit Deborah in Palm Beach County in 1978 and a date was arranged with Bob Gross who was also at the State Attorney's office. Bob and Cynthia were subsequently married. The matchmaker now has her brother-in-law, Bob, as a fellow County Court Judge. This family has stayed close!

Deborah met her husband Michael Pucillo in Washington, D.C. when she was doing a summer internship after her sophomore year at Mount Holyoke. They were married after law school and Deborah spent one year in a Washington, D.C. law firm doing administrative law before following Michael to Palm Beach County where he had grown up. Michael had attended St. Ann's School locally before going off to William College and Georgetown Law School. His family owned the Petite Marmite Restaurant.

Although the new judge has spent a total of eight years at the State Attorney's office, she did take a break from 1982 until 1984 to go into private practice with Fleming, Haile & Shaw. After the birth of her son, she returned to the State Attorney's office for this latest stint.

The Pucillo have two children Sarah, age eight, and William, age four. The family lives in Palm Beach, in fact, in the house in which William Pucillo grew up. They enjoy biking on the Palm Beach trails and have gone snow skiing for the second year in a row.

Judge Pucillo is looking forward to move predictable hours in her new position than she had as a prosecutor. She hopes to be able to plan her work and her time a little better. This calm, cool and collected lady will be an excellent judge. She brings to the Bench an incredible intelligence, a studied, conscientious attitude, and tremendous experience which will serve us all well.