



Judge Mose Floyd

Veteran and Public Servant Committed to Equal Justice

BY PAIGE HARRISS



Duval County Court Judge Mose Floyd has served both overseas and in the courtroom. His dedication to country and community stems in part from his childhood experiences. “My father had no formal education but taught himself several trades and did what he had to do to support a family of 12 kids,” he said. “I’ve always felt an obligation to pay back, to give to those who aren’t as fortunate as myself.”

After attending the U.S. Naval Academy, Judge Floyd served as an officer in the Marine Corps from 1977 to 1999 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Among his several military awards, one of his three Meritorious Service Medals was the result of Judge Floyd’s instrumental leadership in the modernization of the Marine Corps’

ground weapons and equipment.

“My leadership style has always been to lead by example, be supportive of those who I lead, and inspire them to be their better selves,” he said. “I’d much rather lead those who genuinely want to do the work and want to support me as their leader.”

After retiring from the Marine Corps, Judge Floyd transferred his leadership style to the courtroom. His decision to become a prosecutor was influenced both by his own experiences and by former Marine and State Attorney Harry L. Shorstein.

“I always harken back to where I was raised in the south as a young black kid where I noticed that many who looked like me weren’t getting the same breaks as others in the justice system,” he said. “Those who were

underprivileged didn’t get the same advantages as those who could afford the better attorneys when they came to court, and I wanted to try to level the playing field and ensure equal justice.”

Although initially planning to become a defense attorney, it was Mr. Shorstein who convinced Judge Floyd to become a prosecutor. “Mr. Shorstein explained that I could do so much more to achieve equal justice by being a prosecutor because I would be dealing with a larger number of cases and I’d be making very important decisions up front including what the charges would be (if any), what sentence to seek, what bond recommendations to make, and the ability to ensure that the police officers involved with the cases were doing the