

DONALD C. SPENCER CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers Celebrate Sunshine Week

Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers to Recognize National Initiative Highlighting Importance of Open Government and Freedom of Information

Tallahassee, Fla. – The <u>Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers</u> (FCCC) today announced that the 10th annual Sunshine Week will kick off Sunday, March 15, 2015, and continue through Saturday, March 21, 2015. Sunshine Week, a nationwide initiative, aims to promote a healthy dialogue regarding the importance of open government and freedom of information, while also seeking to enlighten citizens on what the government does and why.

"Transparency in government is at the core of every Clerk's office throughout the state," said the Honorable Joseph E. Smith, FCCC President and Clerk of the Circuit Court of St. Lucie County. "Florida's Court Clerks and Comptrollers are committed to ensuring dependability, clarity and openness in government. We look forward to celebrating a decade of open-government awareness and empowering communities to play an active role in our government."

"Every day, the Clerks play a key role in helping constituents access local financial information and public records, as well as ensuring the proper use of tax dollars, performing audits, and other duties to guarantee efficiency and oversight of government," Smith added. "To that end, Florida's Court Clerks and Comptrollers are currently undertaking a new initiative to post the majority of court records online, in order to give the public easy access to their records."

"Sunshine Week gives FCCC a chance to highlight these resources and new initiatives, so we can enlighten the public on their right to know," concluded Smith.

Santa Rosa County Clerk, Honorable Donald C. Spencer, welcomes you to access all county financial information and public records at www.santarosaclerk.com. "Our number one goal at the Clerk's Office is to serve the citizens of Santa Rosa County and allow public access to information and records on our website."

To access statewide information on FCCC's financial, budget and other data, as well as collections and remittances, please visit the FCCC's <u>Transparency and Accountability Page</u>; and, to find direct links to individual county Clerks' websites, please visit <u>www.myfloridaclerks.com</u>.

For more information on the Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers and Sunshine Week, please visit <u>http://www.myfloridaclerks.com/pages/sunshine</u> and <u>http://sunshineweek.rcfp.org/</u>.