

# Sharon R. Bock, Esq.

*Clerk & Comptroller*

*Palm Beach County*

## **Biography**

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Clerk & Comptroller Sharon R. Bock is a tireless advocate for continuous government improvement who encourages the use of industry best practices and technology to address the major fiscal and ethical challenges facing Palm Beach County. Now in her second four-year term, she was first elected to the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court in November, 2004. Upon taking her oath as Clerk, she immediately modified the organization's name to Clerk & Comptroller, to more accurately reflect the office's duties, services and public purpose. As Clerk & Comptroller, she serves a local population of nearly 1.3 million citizens as the county's Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Auditor, Clerk of the Circuit Court, County Recorder and Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. Hers is the third largest Clerk's office in Florida, administering a \$60 million annual budget and overseeing more than 700 employees in seven locations.

One of Clerk Bock's most important duties is identifying waste and government inefficiencies through her Inspector General & Audit department. Since her election, she has identified an estimated \$26 million in questionable costs, lost revenue and potential losses and damages; conducted high-profile audits of the county Convention & Visitors Bureau, Convention Center and Debt Issuance Process; and protected \$70 million of taxpayer dollars by removing funds from the state investment pool prior to a freeze of the fund in 2007. Her strong reputation in the financial arena has resulted in requests from county commissioners for financial analyses and trend reports necessary for effective decision-making and from other constitutional officers, the courts and community leaders for objective financial and performance audits. Additionally, because of Clerk Bock's broad expertise in areas such as government finance, investment portfolio management and auditing, she has been quoted in national and international publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times* and *The Bond Buyer*.

Since taking office, another of Clerk Bock's primary objectives has been to provide a program of public education and awareness that promote transparency and accountability in county government. Her commitment to this is evidenced by her publication of the award-winning *Checks & Balances: Your Guide to County Finances*, Palm Beach County's first-ever annual citizens' guide to county finances. In addition, she established a Speakers Bureau, E-Newsletter and "Clerk Alerts" to provide timely information and resources on topics such as identify theft, legislation, fraud and other matters of public concern.

Clerk Bock brings to her position nearly twenty-five years of experience in the private sector as a financial consultant, real estate lawyer, title company owner and general manager. She first joined the Clerk's office in 1998 as Chief Deputy for Court Services. She was promoted to Chief Deputy Clerk in 2003, and maintained that position until she was sworn into office.

The standards of excellence in the Clerk & Comptroller's office have been heightened as a result of Clerk Bock's commitment to innovation and continuous improvement. For example, she played a significant role in the office's earning the prestigious Governor's Sterling Award for Organizational Performance Excellence, the highest achievement of business excellence in the state of Florida, and earned only by organizations who subject themselves to rigorous measurements of process efficiency and customer satisfaction. She also created the organization's first-ever customer feedback system, which has been used as a model in other organizations; developed a public web portal that provides access to court and official records; implemented a successful wellness program for her employees, leading to two awards from The American Heart Association: Gold Achievement as a Fit-Friendly Company and the Worksite Fitness Innovation Award; and created a nationally-recognized Self Service Center to help people navigate their way through the court system along with a software program for online access to the center.

A member of the Florida Association of Court Clerks & Comptrollers, Clerk Bock currently serves on the organization's Legislative and Best Practices Committees. As an elected member of the Clerk of Courts Operations Corporation (CCOC), the statewide policymaking body for Florida's Clerks, she serves on the Finance & Budget, Revenue Enhancement and Revenue Stabilization committees. Elected in 2010, she also serves on the Florida Courts E-Filing Authority. This is the rulemaking body for the statewide electronic filing portal that will transform the administration of justice in Florida. Locally, she is a member of the Executive Women of the Palm Beaches, the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, the Forum Club of the Palm Beaches, the Palm Beach County Government Finance Officers Association, and the Palm Beach County and South Palm Beach County Bar Associations. Other affiliations include membership in the Florida Bar Association, the Florida Government Finance Officers Association, and the Association of Inspectors General.

**Education:**

- South Texas College of Law, Juris Doctorate
  - Law Review Assistant Managing Editor
  - Studied International Commerce Law at the University of Hong Kong
- Slippery Rock University, B.A.

**Accreditations, Certifications and Licenses:**

- Supreme Court Certified Clerk

- Accredited Investment Fiduciary®
- Real Estate Sales License
- Insurance License
- Securities Licenses Series 7, 63 and 65
- Certified Scuba Diver
- General Aviation Pilot License

**Author:**

“Electronic Access to Court Records – A Virtual Tightrope in the Making,” *Florida Bar Journal*, November 2004

**Honors:**

- 2010 Susan B. Anthony Award, Palm Beach County National Organization for Women
- 2009 Named one of the Most Powerful & Influential Women in Florida by *Florida Diversity Magazine*
- 2008 Leadership Palm Beach County Leadership Excellence Award
- 2007 Named one of the 40 Most Powerful People in Palm Beach County by *The Palm Beacher*
- 2007 Honorary Co-Chair, American Heart Walk, Palm Beach County
- 2007 Palm Beach County Voters Coalition Civic Leader of the Year Award
- 2007 Executive Women of the Palm Beaches’ Women in Leadership Award
- 2007 Junior Achievement Rising Star Award
- 2006 American Jewish Congress Civic Leader of the Year Award
- 2005 Caribbean American for Community Involvement, Business Awareness Program Certificate of Participation
- 2004-2005 and 2001-2002 Small Group Leader Award, Inns of Court
- 2003, Key Contributor to Clerk of the Circuit Court’s receipt of the Florida Governor’s Sterling Award for Organizational Performance Excellence
- 2001 Florida Association of Women Lawyers Glass Ceiling Breaker Award

**Appointments:**

- Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation Executive Council, Secretary/Treasurer; Committees: Finance & Budget, Revenue Enhancement, Revenue Stabilization, Performance Improvement Efficiencies
- Florida Association of Court Clerks & Comptrollers Committees: Constitution & Bylaws, Legislative, Communications, Clerk Training, Self Help/Pro Se
- Florida Courts E-Filing Authority Board, FACC Delegate & Chair of Pro Se User Access Subcommittee
- Florida Supreme Court Pro Se Committee
- The Forum Club of the Palm Beaches, Board of Directors
- Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission
- Palm Beach County Domestic Violence Council
- Palm Beach County Juvenile Justice Commission

## **Memberships:**

- Association of Inspectors General
- Craig S. Barnard American Inns of Court, Emeritus
- Executive Women of the Palm Beaches
- Florida Bar Association
- Florida Government Finance Officers Association
- Florida Tax Watch
- The Forum Club of the Palm Beaches
- Leadership Palm Beach County Alumnus
- National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks
- Palm Beach County and South Palm Beach County Bar Associations
- Palm Beach County Government Finance Officers Association
- Palm Beach County League of Women Voters
- Voters Coalition of Palm Beach County

## **Prior Appointments:**

- American Bar Association, Law Student Liaison to the Practice Management Section
- City of Miami Commission on the Status of Women
- Florida Association of Court Clerks & Comptrollers Article V, Communications, E-Filing Workgroup, Education & Judicial Relations Committees
- Florida Bar Grievance Committee
- Leadership Palm Beach County Board of Governors
- Planning & Zoning Board, Town of Palm Beach Shores
- Florida Senate Appointee to the Executive Council of the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation
- Women's Business Development Center at Florida International University

## **Clerk & Comptroller's Office Awards:**

### **2011**

- Palm Award for Excellence in Public Relations for *Clerks 4 Wellness Campaign* top winner in "Internal Communications" category, Public Relations Society of America, Palm Beach Chapter
- Accredited Inspector General Agency, Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, which means Clerk auditors follow the high standards set for Offices of Inspector General.
- The American Heart Association Gold Achievement as a Fit-Friendly Company
- The American Heart Association Worksite Fitness Innovation Award

### **2010**

- Standard & Poor's assigned the county's investment portfolio the highest rating category AAf/S1, which represents extremely strong protection against credit losses from credit

defaults and low volatility, or sensitivity to changing market conditions. The portfolio is managed by the Clerk & Comptroller.

- CEFEX Certified Investment Steward awarded to the Clerk's investment program by the Center for Fiduciary Excellence, which signifies adherence to best practices in the industry and excellence in investment record-keeping procedures
- Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for "Checks & Balances: Your Guide to County Finances," for FY 2009, Government Finance Officers Association
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report FY 2009, Government Finance Officers Association
- Best Practices in HR, a publication by Business and Legal Resources (BLR), featured Clerk & Comptroller's "We're All in This Together" transition program
- Work Life Innovative Excellence Award from the Alliance for Work-Life Progress, an affiliate of WorldatWork®
- Palm Award for Excellence in Public Relations for [www.mypalmbeachclerk.com](http://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com) Web site redesign (top winner in "Web sites – Government/Public Service" category), Public Relations Society of America, Palm Beach Chapter
- Palm Award for Excellence in Public Relations for *Sensible Start Wedding* promotion for 9/09/09 (top winner in "Public Affairs/Government Relations" category), Public Relations Society of America, Palm Beach Chapter

## 2009

- Standard & Poor's assigned the county's investment portfolio the highest rating category AAf/S1, which represents extremely strong protection against credit losses from credit defaults and low volatility, or sensitivity to changing market conditions. The portfolio is managed by the Clerk & Comptroller.
- CEFEX Certified Investment Steward awarded to the Clerk's investment program by the Center for Fiduciary Excellence, which signifies adherence to best practices in the industry and excellence in investment record-keeping procedures
- Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for "Checks & Balances: Your Guide to County Finances," for FY 2008, Government Finance Officers Association
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report FY 2008, Government Finance Officers Association\*
- Bernays Award for "Best PR Campaign by a Large Company or Firm" for Best Practices 2008, Gold Coast PR Council
- Best Places to Work Award, Finalist, South Florida Business Journal
- Palm Award for Excellence in Public Relations for Annual Report, "Checks & Balances: Your Guide to County Finances," FY 2007, Public Relations Society of America, Palm Beach Chapter

## 2008

- Standard & Poor's assigned the county's investment portfolio the highest rating category AAf/S1, which represents extremely strong protection against credit losses from credit defaults and low volatility, or sensitivity to changing market conditions. The portfolio is managed by the Clerk & Comptroller.

- Best Places to Work Award, Finalist, South Florida Business Journal
- Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for "Checks & Balances: Your Guide to County Finances," for FY 2007, Government Finance Officers Association
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report FY 2007, Government Finance Officers Association
- Horizon Interactive Awards, Gold Recognition for Government Web sites
- Best Government Microsite/Web Landing Page, Web Marketing Association's Internet Advertising Competition

## **2007**

- Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for "Checks & Balances: Your Guide to County Finances," for FY 2006, the office's inaugural Popular Annual Financial Report, Government Finance Officers Association
- Overall Silver Spotlight Award in the category of Print, Video & Web Communications for "Checks & Balances: Your Guide to County Finances," League of American Communications Professionals
- ATHENA Award, Finalist, Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report FY 2006, Government Finance Officers Association

## **2006**

- ATHENA Award, Finalist, Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report FY 2005, Government Finance Officers Association

## **2005**

- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report FY 2004, Government Finance Officers Association

## **Personal:**

Clerk Bock lives in Palm Beach Shores about a mile from her parents, Mary Louise and Louis Repak.