

FLORIDA



SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 12519 • Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519
Telephone 850/877-2165 • FAX 850/878-8665 • www.flsheriffs.org

March 16, 2009

Kenneth A. Kent
Executive Director
Florida Association of Court Clerks & Comptrollers
3544 Maclay Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32312

Dear Director Kent:

Please be advised that the Florida Sheriffs support the Clerks in their opposition to House Bill 1121 and Senate Bill 2108 relating to the transfer of the Clerks' duties to the court administrators. It is imperative that the Florida Legislature preserve the role of the Clerks of the Court who are constitutionally created and independently elected to fulfill an important check and balance with the courts. It is difficult to believe there would be support to take a working system that has long been answerable to the people of Florida and transfer it to court administrators who are employees of and directly accountable to the judiciary, not the voters.

While we understand the importance of ensuring that the Clerks' offices are run efficiently and our judiciary system is properly funded, we can find no justification in transferring to the state court system, the court-related services performed by the Clerks who have historically been accountable to the people of Florida.

Sincerely,

Sheriff William O. "Bill" Farmer, Jr.
President, Florida Sheriffs Association

WOF/mm