



President's Message

Welcome Retiring Florida Supreme Court Justice Ricky Polston, Citizens' New General Counsel

March 29, 2023

I'm excited to welcome retiring Florida Supreme Court Justice Ricky Polston as Citizens' new General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer. I'm grateful to the Board of Governors for its overwhelming support.

Justice Polston brings an incredible level of integrity, legal acumen, and insurance expertise to Citizens as we address the challenges and opportunities facing our company and the insurance industry. A Florida Panhandle native who grew up in Graceville, Justice Polston will work from the Citizens office in Tallahassee when he begins his duties April 3.

Appointed in 2008 to Florida's highest court, Justice Polston served as Chief Justice from 2012 to 2014. During his 15-year tenure, he oversaw technical upgrades to the state court system and rendered hundreds of decisions during a period of dramatic change in the Florida insurance, real estate, and financial markets.

A graduate of Chipola College and Florida State University, where he graduated with honors, Justice Polston worked as a certified public accountant before going back to earn his law degree in 1986 from the Florida State University College of Law. He spent 14 years in private practice, specializing in commercial litigation, before being appointed to the First District Court of Appeal in 2001.

In addition to his judicial duties, Justice Polston has been an adjunct professor at FSU College of Law since 2003, teaching various courses including Insurance Law, Florida Constitutional Law and Florida Alternative Dispute Resolution. He and his wife, Deborah Ehler Polston, have been married 45 years, have 10 children, including an adopted sibling group of six, and numerous grandchildren.

I know you will make him feel at home and make his transition from the bench to Citizens as smooth and seamless as possible. Justice Polston is a great addition to our leadership team, and I am confident you all will truly enjoy working with him as we move forward.

All the best,

Tim Cerio

President/CEO and Executive Director