

MEMBER NEWS

Special Testimony Presented by Justice for Girls: Duval County Initiative

On March 19, 2009 at the request of the Justice for Girls: Duval County Initiative, the Honorable J.C. Planas, Chairman of the Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee, held a special hearing on girls in the juvenile justice system.

William Sheu, Leadership Council member, and Joan

Van Vleck, Calendar Committee member, presented compelling testimony on behalf of justice-involved girls. Other speakers included Dot Iman-Johnson, Children's Campaign, Inc. Founding Board member; the Honorable Nancy Daniels, Public Defender, 2nd Judicial Circuit, State of Florida; Dr. Shairi Turner, Medical Director, Department



L to R: Scott McGehee, Natalie, Brionne, Lawanda Ravoira & Joan Van Vleck.

of Juvenile Justice; Cathy Craig Myers, Executive Director, Florida Juvenile Justice Association and Mary Marx, Interim President & CEO PACE Center for Girls, Inc.

Three young women, one formerly in the juvenile justice system and two currently in the system, shared their personal stories.

Dr. Lawanda Ravoira provided a presentation summarizing the research and the recommendations established by the Leadership Council. Chairman Planas noted that the hearing on girls would be the only special testimony heard during this legislative session. Girls advocate, and Jacksonville resident Scott McGehee was recognized as a citizen leader from the Jacksonville community.