



**Second Judicial Circuit of Florida
Press Release**

June 25, 2015

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHIEF JUDGE CHARLES A. FRANCIS AND

LEON COUNTY JUDGE J. LAYNE SMITH ATTEND THE

2015 FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE PROGRAM

On Monday, June 15, 2015, Chief Judge Charles A. Francis and Leon County Judge J. Layne Smith from the Second Judicial Circuit spoke to 534 qualified male high school rising seniors at the 2015 Florida American Legion Boys State program. Boys State is a one week comprehensive “leadership action program” designed to develop a working knowledge of the structure of government and to impress upon the delegates the fact that our government is what we make it. Chief Judge Francis and Judge Smith had the privilege to give insight into the Florida legal and judicial system specifically focusing on mentoring the boys on how to become a licensed lawyer, the private practice of law, being a trial lawyer, serving as an attorney for the State, and the duties and responsibilities of a circuit and county judge. Chief Judge Francis and Judge Smith were honored to be given the opportunity to speak to these young gentlemen. They hope their encouraging words will influence young boys to become leaders in government one day.

Ms. Elizabeth Douglas, Florida American Legion Programs Director, states, “The boys had a wonderful time with developing their government and being able to use the hands-on learning experience with voting and passing bills. All of the boys enjoyed their time learning how to build their government, holding elections, playing dodge ball, voting, and participating in party rallies. Overall, majority of the boys were happy that the experience taught them something which they could apply to their everyday life once they returned home.”

What a great program for rising male high school seniors!