

## Bridenback Honored with Prestigious Award



Hillsborough Circuit Judge Ron Ficarro with Court Administrator Mike Bridenback following presentation of the Kenneth R. Palmer Award on Jan. 7 in Tallahassee.

Michael Bridenback, Court Administrator for the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, became the third recipient of the Kenneth R. Palmer Award presented jointly by the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges and the Trial Court Budget Commission for meritorious service to Florida's trial courts.

Bridenback has served the court system since 1976, when then-State Courts Administrator Palmer, his mentor, gave him his first job in Tallahassee. He served in the Office of State Courts Administrator as Chief of Court Services until 1994, when he came to Tampa as administrator here.

Following passage of Revision 7 in 1998, Bridenback served on the steering committee that developed the implementation plan to transition the court system to state funding. The committee recommended the Florida Supreme Court create by rule the Trial Court Budget Commission, responsible for overseeing the administration of trial court budgets in the 20 judicial circuits in an equitable and fair manner. Subsequently, Bridenback served 12 years on the 21-member commission until stepping down last year.

Bridenback says he had an inkling he might get a service award for his time on the commission, but he didn't know about the Palmer award, which has only been given out twice in the last decade – to current State Courts Administrator Lisa Goodner and Carol Ortman, Court Administrator for the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit and another long-serving member of the Trial Court Budget Commission.

The Kenneth R. Palmer Award honors an exemplary career dedicated to administering a trial court system committed to the furtherance of justice. The 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit congratulates Mike Bridenback.