

# Clerk of Courts Promotes Sunshine Week in Collier County

**March 14 -20 2010**



## **Press Release:**

As the keeper of public records and as accountant, auditor and “watchdog” of the public funds, Dwight Brock, Clerk of the Circuit Court, is committed to practicing open government in Collier County by providing easy access to public records and financial information.

In an effort to educate the community about ‘open government’, Mr. Brock is promoting various activities during Sunshine Week, March 14 – 20 in Collier County. For more information about Sunshine Week or to get direct access to public records and financial information related to the Clerk’s Office visit [www.CollierClerk.com](http://www.CollierClerk.com) and click on the Sunshine Week logo.

## **The origins of Sunshine Week:**

In 2002, the **Florida Society of Newspaper Editors** (FSNE) launched Sunshine Sunday in response to efforts by some Florida legislators to create scores of new exemptions to the state’s public records law. FSNE estimates that some 300 exemptions to open government laws were defeated in the legislative sessions that followed its three Sunshine Sundays, because of the increased public and legislative awareness that resulted from their efforts.

Several states followed Florida’s lead, and in June 2003, ASNE hosted a Freedom of Information (FOI) Summit in Washington where the seeds for Sunshine Week were planted.

With an inaugural grant from Knight Foundation, the ASNE FOI Committee took up the challenge and launched Sunshine Week in March 2005. It continues to be celebrated each year in mid-March, coinciding with **National FOI Day** and James Madison’s birthday

Sunshine Week is now a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants include print, broadcast and online news media, civic groups, libraries, nonprofits, schools and others interested in the public’s right to know.

Sunshine Week is about the public’s right to know what its government is doing, and why. Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger.

Sunshine Week is a nonpartisan initiative whose supporters are conservative, liberal and everything in between. The only requirement is that you do something to engage in a discussion about the importance of open government. It could be a large public forum or a classroom discussion, an article or series of articles about access to important information, or an editorial. The extent to which you participate is up to you.

## **Sunshine Week activities and events**

### **For more information contact:**

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