Justice Canady Signs Order Creating Fla. Innocence Commission

Ledger Staff Report

Published: Friday, July 2, 2010 at 9:40 a.m. Last Modified: Friday, July 2, 2010 at 9:40 a.m.

TALLAHASSEE | State Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles T. Canady today issued an administrative order creating a Florida Innocence Commission.

The 23-member Innocence Commission will "study the causes of wrongful conviction and subsequent incarceration," according to the order. It will examine ways to prevent such convictions.

The commission won't review cases until it has already been determined that defendants were wrongfully convicted.

Canady, who is from Lakeland, took the action Thursday on just his second day as chief justice.

A news release from the court credited former Chief Justice Peggy A. Quince with making the commission possible, citing her work in obtaining \$200,000 from the Legislature to fund the work.

It also credited help from incoming Senate President Mike Haridopolos and work by the Florida Bar Foundation.

Canady named Quince as the Supreme Court liaison to the commission. It will be chaired by Chief Judge Belvin Perry of the Ninth Judicial Circuit based in Orlando.