



Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Harry Lee Anstead listens at February 2004 Courts Forum.

Forum Underscores Need for Proper Courts Funding

More than 100 civic and business leaders, judges and courts personnel heard about the potential consequences of under funding the states courts system during a February forum held by Florida TaxWatch in Tallahassee.

"The Courts have been in a state of crisis since the last legislative session, when they took a five percent cut," Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Harry Anstead told the forum. "It's not just Revision 7—we're under funded now."

"Courts account for less than two percent of the state budget," said Rick McAllister, President and CEO of the Florida Retail Federation and a Florida TaxWatch Board member. "Fully-funding our courts is a small price to pay for protecting citizens and maintaining a healthy business environment."

"Court delays will increase costs, hurting businesses and ultimately their customers," said Alex Sanchez, CEO of the Florida Bankers Association and a Florida TaxWatch Board member.

Chief Justice Anstead, who originally requested that TaxWatch study court funding, added, "The thing we most applaud TaxWatch for is realizing the importance of not having a two-level system in our judiciary."

Interested? Please read Florida TaxWatch's February 2004 report:

[Proper Funding of the State Courts System is Crucial to Rule of Law, Taxpayer Confidence and a Healthy Economy: Inadequate Funding May Result in Justice Delayed, Justice Denied, February 2004](#)