

**FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JULY 9, 2020**

The Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers calls for the immediate removal of the entry mural in the Baker County Courthouse in Macclenny, Florida, which depicts horseback riders in KKK robes. This mural, in the words of the artist, was meant to portray the area's history and culture through the decades. That is a laudable goal, because understanding history is our bedrock. But especially when seen through today's lens, parts of the mural make it a reprehensible reminder of an unjust and racist past in our area. The mural is prominently located in the center of the first floor of the public area of the county courthouse. It has no place in any public building or park, and it certainly has no place in a judicial building. This mural is anathema to our system of justice and depicts everything a judicial system should oppose: racial discrimination, racial supremacy, terrorism and vigilantism.

We call upon the chief judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit to immediately order removal of this shocking and offensive depiction of the worst part of American history. No citizen—whether required to be in the courthouse or just visiting—should be subjected to a public display that glorifies segregation or racial superiority. The Chief Judge should act immediately to rectify this situation.

The Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers is a 1200-plus member organization which promotes excellence and integrity in the practice of criminal law.

For more information, contact Becky Barlow at (850) 385-5080.