

Judge jumps from bench to stop attack

by UPI

MIAMI -- A Florida judge leaped over his bench to restrain a defendant who became violent after being told he was going to jail for violating a restraining order.

Broward County Judge Ian Richards, 33, and an attorney are credited with keeping John Charles Reasee, 29, of Lauderhill, Fla., from continuing to attack Nicole Word, his former girlfriend and the mother of his child, The Miami Herald reported Wednesday.

Reasee allegedly hit Word five times with a closed fist Tuesday after Richards said he was going to jail for violating a restraining order Word had obtained.

Four Lauderhill officers waiting to testify in another case raced into the courtroom and held Reasee down until he could be handcuffed.

"That was unfortunate, something I hope never happens again," Richards, one of Broward County's newest judges, told the Herald.

Reasee spent Tuesday night in the county's main jail, the newspaper said. He now faces additional charges of domestic battery and resisting arrest.

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