

Busted for pot, Fla. judge takes a leave

by UPI

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - A Fort Lauderdale, Fla., judge who was arrested for smoking marijuana in a park a month ago began an indefinite paid leave of absence Wednesday.

Broward Circuit Chief Judge Dale Ross said Judge Lawrence Korda would now have time to undergo counseling "for personal issues" and the move would bolster "public trust and confidence" in the court system, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported.

Hollywood, Fla., plainclothes police officers conducting a training exercise in a park on March 18 smelled a suspicious aroma and then spotted Korda sitting under a tree smoking something with children close by.

He was charged with misdemeanor marijuana possession.

Two weeks later, Ross switched Korda out of family court and into probate court so Korda would not rule on drug-related matters while awaiting trial, the Miami Herald said.

Earlier this year, Korda made national news when he ruled his court had no jurisdiction in the paternity action over Anna Nicole Smith's daughter.

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