

To Get Court Here

By FRANK WITTY
Staff Writer

Palm Beach County has more to offer for location of a new Appellate Court here, local attorneys contended Thursday.

Members of a committee of County Bar Association and Junior Bar Association attorneys working on a proposal to entice the new court to this county reacted to a story in Thursday's Post on St. Lucie County efforts.

That county and its major city, Fort Pierce, have prepared a pamphlet describing their offer for an Appellate Court location in that area.

"It's a beautifully done job," attorney Shepard P. Lesser said of the pamphlet. He's chairman of the Bar committee working on the new court project.

"But an analysis of the facts shows we have more to offer," Lesser said.

St. Lucie County and Fort Pierce offer a choice of four

sites. Two in downtown Fort Pierce are about one acre, too small for the proposed court building, said Lesser.



SHEPARD LESSER

Another is at St. Lucie County Airport and is of undetermined size. "It could turn out to be half an acre," said the attorney.

That leaves one site: two three-acre tracts of adjoining land near Indian River Junior College. St. Lucie offers one of the two for the proposed new court.

Lesser points out that West Palm Beach has adopted a resolution granting 4.13 acres of land for the new court, adding that he could find no indication in St. Lucie's pamphlet that its land offers have been backed by governmental resolution.

And Palm Beach County is the caseload center of the proposed new Appeals Court District, said Lesser, noting that Palm Beach and Broward Counties are principal appellate contributors along the east coast of Florida, which makes up much of the new district.

Access to Palm Beach County by highways, railroad and air is easier, said Lesser, pointing to the central location of Palm Beach International Airport and proximity of major highways to the proposed court site here.

It would be located within view of Interstate Highway 95 traffic near the Okeechobee Road interchange. And that limited-access highway probably will be built through this county before it is in St. Lucie, notes Lesser.

The Bar committee now is working on a "simple" brochure that will describe Palm Beach County's offer for the court site, advantages of locating in this area and temporary facilities.

Attorney William C. Owen Jr., preparing the brochure, said it should be completed within two weeks.