

SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS



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PRESS RELEASE

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CHIEF JUSTICE RHYS S. HODGE ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES

The Honorable Rhys S. Hodge, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands, was elected to a two year term as a Director on the Board of Directors of the Conference of Chief Justices at its annual meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico on August 5, 2009. The Conference of Chief Justices is a national organization that represents the top judges of the 50 states and U.S. territories, and serves as the primary representative of the state and territorial courts before Congress and the federal executive agencies. The Conference of Chief Justices, founded in 1949 and celebrating its sixtieth anniversary this year, promotes the interests and effectiveness of state and territorial judicial systems through its focus on current legal issues, judicial administration, and development of policies and educational programs designed to improve the court system operations.

Justice Hodge has stated, "It is a privilege to serve in this capacity. The Courts continue to be the bastion of justice in the United States and throughout the world, serving as the independent arbitrator of fact without any respect to color, class or constituency. The Conference of Chief Justices continues to promote not only the independence of the judiciary, but also policies that positively affects the public's trust and confidence in the judicial system and foster access to justice. I am pleased to represent the Virgin Islands and to provide the perspective of the territorial judiciary at this national level."

Justice Hodge is equally delighted to host the Conference of Chief Justices for their Mid-winter Meeting scheduled for January 30, 2010 to February 3, 2010 in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. While the Virgin Islands had long since been a part of the conference, this is the first time that the conference will be meeting in the U.S. Virgin Islands. "While the mid-year meeting is a working meeting, it presents a perfect opportunity for the Virgin Islands to display its hospitality to yet another class of visitors and I look forward to ensuring that their stay is second to none," stated Justice Hodge.

Chief Justice Hodge was appointed Chief Justice of the Virgin Islands Supreme Court by Governor Charles W. Turnbull in October 2006. Previously he served as a Judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands from June, 2000, and as the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in 2006. Chief Justice Hodge is a graduate of the Rutgers University School of Law - Camden.

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