

JUDICIAL BRANCH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE



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ELECTION OF CHIEF JUSTICE

Administrator of Courts, Regina Petersen, is pleased to announce to the members of the VI Bar Association and the general public that the Honorable Rhys S. Hodge has been elected to serve another five-year term as Chief Justice of the Virgin Islands, to commence on December 15, 2021. Chief Justice Hodge was elected pursuant to title 4, section 22(f)(2) of the Virgin Islands Code, which provides that not later than sixty (60) days before the expiration of a Chief Justice's term, a majority of the full-time justices sitting en banc shall select a Chief Justice from among their members. This meeting was convened on October 15, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., and was attended by Chief Justice Hodge and Associate Justice Maria M. Cabret. Associate Justice Ive Arlington Swan did not attend the meeting, but sent written communication advising that he was not interested in serving as Chief Justice at this time.

Chief Justice Hodge stated, *"I am pleased to once again have the opportunity to continue to serve the people of the Virgin Islands in this capacity for yet another term. The Judiciary of the Virgin Islands has made a tremendous amount of progress in the last five (5) years and I am pleased to continue to be an instrumental part of the ongoing progress. We have much more work to do as our operations continue to evolve and expand following administrative unification in 2016, manage recovery projects from twin Category 5 Hurricanes in 2017, and grapple with full operations in an ongoing global pandemic, all the while seeking to modernize and innovate local court operations. As this is likely my last term as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands, I look forward to the expansion of the Court during my tenure so that I am able to assist in preparing and establishing the foundation for this transition. I convey my thanks to the other justices of the Court and the judges and employees of the Judicial Branch who continue to support me and lend their talents to our developing organization."*

For more information, contact:

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