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## PRESS RELEASE

Press Release No.: 2017-005

September 5, 2017

Chief Justice Rhys S. Hodge wishes to advise the general public and members of the Virgin Islands Bar that the Judicial Branch of the Virgin Islands will be closed to the public at noon on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 in final preparations for the arrival of Hurricane Irma.

**Supreme Court:** All systems will be taken offline at noon today. Accordingly, the Supreme Court's electronic filing system ("VISCEFS") will be not be available. As a result, filings will be accepted via secured lock-box at both locations for all time sensitive matters and court imposed deadlines, which will be decided on a case by case basis.

**Superior Court:** All previously calendared matters and Advice of Rights will be heard and or rescheduled to conform with this closure. All filings for the Superior Court will be accepted in the Clerk's Office until noon today. Thereafter, filings will be accepted via secured lock-box at both locations for all time sensitive matters and court imposed deadlines, which will be decided on a case by case basis.

As of the last update, Hurricane Irma is now a Category 5 Hurricane. All court facilities will be closed from noon today through Thursday, September 7, 2017 to allow sufficient time for assessments to be made. The Judicial Branch will resume normal operations on Friday, September 8, 2017.

We are asking the public to be vigilant in their preparedness and to remain out of harm's way.

**For more information, contact:**

Regina deChabert Petersen, Administrator of Courts  
Judicial Branch of the Virgin Islands  
P.O. Box 590  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00804

Tel: (340) 774-2237 • Fax: (340) 774-2258 • TTY: (340) 693-4118

[Regina.Petersen@vicourts.org](mailto:Regina.Petersen@vicourts.org)