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**October 18, 2013**

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Press Release No. 2013-0007**

Pursuant to section 22(f)(2) of title 4 of the Virgin Islands Code, which provides that not later than sixty 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, the Honorable Rhys S. Hodge, Chief Justice, convened the second meeting for the justices to select their new Chief Justice on October 18, 2013, at 11:00a.m.

Chief Justice Hodge and the Honorable Maria M. Cabret, Associate Justice, were in attendance and constituted the majority. The Honorable Ive Arlington Swan, Associate Justice, did not attend, but previously submitted correspondence declining to serve as Chief Justice. At the meeting, Justice Cabret also tendered correspondence declining to serve as Chief Justice. After holding a formal vote, Chief Justice Hodge was duly elected to serve another three-year term as Chief Justice pursuant to section 22(f)(4) of title 4.

Chief Justice Hodge stated, "I am pleased to have the opportunity to continue to serve the people of the Virgin Islands in this capacity for yet another term. The Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands has made a tremendous amount of progress in the last seven years and I was pleased to be an instrumental part of that progress. Although we achieved our goal last year of attaining direct review of our decisions by the United States Supreme Court, much work remains to be done. The Virgin Islands Judiciary must remain responsive to Virgin Islanders, and must continue to strengthen services to the public in a cost-effective manner. I convey my thanks to the other justices of the Court and the employees who continue to support me and lend their talents to our growing organization."

In congratulating Chief Justice Hodge, Justice Cabret commented, "I am once again delighted that Chief Justice Hodge has agreed to serve as our Chief Justice for a third term. His stellar performance has steadfastly guided the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands to the amazing achievements it has made within such a remarkably short time, and I know he will continue his outstanding efforts to make our Supreme Court the best among the best and to improve the administration of justice in the Territory."

Chief Justice Hodge's new three-year term will commence on December 19, 2013, and end on December 18, 2016.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Regina Petersen  
Acting Administrative Director  
Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands  
P.O. Box 590  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00804  
Tel: (340) 774-2237  
Fax: (340) 774-2258  
Regina.Petersen@visupremecourt.org  
[www.visuperemecourt.org](http://www.visuperemecourt.org)